FBIS DAILY REPORT

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Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 82 *27 April 1978*

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PrEx 9.10: FBIS/MEA-78-82

FBIS-MEA-78-82
Thursday
27 April 1978
Vol V No 82

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE HOLDS MEETING

JN2617502 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The Central Committee of the Palestinian national liberation movement, Fatah, held a meeting last evening attended by all members except Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], who was absent because he is presently heading the Palestinian delegation to the Islamic foreign ministers conference in Dakar.

The radio correspondent has learned that the committee studied the situation in the area on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels.

Brother Majid Abu (?Sharar), secretary of the revolutionary council of the Palestinian national liberation movement, Fatah, has stated the following: With extreme happiness and confidence, we say to our Palestinian people, who are hoping to return to their homeland and who are awaiting liberation and independence, that the unity of Fatah is as firm and deep-rooted as the mountains of Galilee, Nabulus, Jerusalem and Hebron. We shall keep the pledge made to our Palestinian people when our revolution was launched. We shall remain loyal to this pledge and capable of continuing the struggle until all our objectives are achieved.

ARAB POPULAR CONFERENCE DENOUNCES ACTIONS IN LEBANON, EGYPT

JN270959Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 27 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 27 April--The premanent general secretariat of the Arab popular conference issued a statement here last night stressing its solidarity with the Palestinian revolution and the right of this revolution to carry out the armed struggle from Lebanon.

The secretariat said this right is stipulated in the Cairo agreement. It is also the right of the Lebanese people and their nationalist forces to carry out their armed struggle in order to crush the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon and to force the Zionist forces to withdraw unconditionally from the south.

The secretariat condemned the statement of the 13-member parliamentary committee and the traditional leaders who signed the statement. The secretariat urged all the Arab governments to shoulder their responsibilities and to send urgent aid to the evacuees in Lebanon to enable them to return to their places. The secretariat pointed out that it is following developments in the Lebanese situation in order to adopt the necessary measures dictated by pan-Arab responsibilities.

The secretariat issued another statement about the trials in Cairo and called for halting these arbitary trials. It said that the halting of these trials is synonymous with the struggle against the national and pan-Arab treason committed by the As-Sadat regime. It is also in defense of the Arab struggle factions.

The secretariat urged all popular and political organizations to condemn these trials and to launch a broad international solidarity campaign with the Egyptian strugglers who are confronting agent As-Sadat from their cells in Egypt.

The secretariat said these trials coincide with the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon and with the escalation of the isolationist provocations against the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement. These trials also coincide with the active movements of the U.S. military and political envoys in the Arab area.

[illegible] LEBANESE PARLIAMENTARY AGREEMENT

JN252023Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1645 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Is what has been reached by the Lebanese parliamentary committee an agreement? If so, who are the parties to this agreement and what will it actually achieve on the level of tangible reality? The contradictory stands and the big slogans the isolationist front used to wave in the face of any balanced national political solution for the Lebanese crisis have suddenly turned into a formula for an agreement and understanding. How and why?

At the beginning it must be pointed out that this agreement does not serve the required national accord, for this cannot exist without the participation of the real political forces in the Lebanese arena, according to clear national and pan-Arab principles. If this is the basis for any agreement, and thus a real basis for accord, it follows that what has been reached in the Chamber of Deputies cannot serve as a universal basis for a new national formula that would stand as a cornerstone in a solution to the Lebanese crisis. Although we have not now or in the past stood in opposition to any agreement which would contribute to solving the Lebanese crisis on all levels, we do put forward many questions whose answers constitute a key for the real solution of the crisis in such a manner that guarantees Lebanon's national unity and arabism.

The first question pertains to UN Security Council Resolution 425. This resolution stipulates the withdrawal of the Zionist forces of occupation from all southern Lebanese territories. It is known that the implementation of this resolution has so far encountered two main obstacles:

1. The Zionist untransigence and refusal to withdraw in order to achieve the military and the political aims of aggression at the expense of Lebanon and the Palestinian cause;

2. The isolationist scheme, with all its branches and extensions, which makes it easy for the enemy to carry out his maneuvers and achieve his ambitions through the militias in the south under the isolationist Sa'd Haddad. The militias who exploded the security situation in the past can explode it now according to their interests.

While the statement issued by the Lebanese parliamentary council has called for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 425, it has neither been able to specify the methods of implementation nor mentioned the obstacles hampering its implementation--and even hampering the rule itself. Thus, what is the stand of the forthcoming government which, it is said, will include the new formula in its cabinet statement? What is its stand on these obstacles, the foremost of which is the isolationist presence in the south which offers a legitimate cover for the Israeli occupation?

The second question pertains to the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. The above statement spoke of stopping the armed Palestinian and non-Palestinian action on all Lebanese territories. Here we put forward the following points:

1. The decision to stop the armed Palestinian action cannot be taken except by the Palestinian revolution alone, for it is the side which defines the means of its struggle for the Arab territories, and in Lebanon in particular.

2. The Palestinian revolution abides by the agreements concluded with the Lebanese authority. These agreem llow and recognize the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian revolution over Lebanese soil--naturally against the Zionist enemy.

ALGERIA: RESOLUTION OF FRONT INFORMATION MINISTERS

LD192202Y Algiers APS in French 1100 GMT 19 Apr 78 LD

[Text] The conference of information ministers of the Arab resistance front held in Algiers on 17 and 18 April 1978 adopted the following resolution:

In accordance with the decisions made within the framework of the action plan for the information field adopted by the second summit conference of the Arab resistance front held in Algiers on 2, 3 and 4 February 1978;

In implementation of the resolutions adopted by the ministers of foreign affairs and defense of the countries of the Arab resistance front at their conference held in Damascus on 19 and 20 March 1978;

The ministers of information of the Arab resistance front held a conference in Algiers on 17 and 18 April 1978, and made the following decisions:

I. Press Agencies

1. To establish permanent contacts among the press agencies of the countries of the Arab resistance front and make immediate endeavors to set up information networks among these agencies and eventually achieve more efficient cooperation in the field of radio information and photography;

2. To set up an office of each press agency in the capitals of the front member countries. The offices will publish information bulletins for organizations, enterprises and private individuals;

3. To give to these offices every technical and administrative facility necessary to fulfill their tasks;

4. To strengthen those press agencies which do not have sufficient means at their disposal in order to enable them to achieve the front's goals in the information field;

5. To make use of news transmitted by the press agencies of the countries of the Arab resistance front and by the Palestinian press agency WAFA, and to use these agencies for transmitting all information concerning the front members.

II. Radio and Television

1. To exchange television news items concerning everyday activities in the front countries;

2. To develop exchange among the radio and television offices in the front member countries in the field of national production;

3. To give particular emphasis to the production of television and radio programs devoted to the Palestinian resistance movement;

4. To produce periodically a joint radio program as the voice of the Arab resistance front;

5. To produce television programs in coproduction with other front countries and ensure that they are broadcast in member countries;

6. To produce television documentary films emphasizing the resistance of the Arab peoples in the occupied territories, as well as the realities of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the racist and expansionist character of the Zionist movement;

7. To exchange technical knowledge in the field of radio and television, and work for coordination in radio frequencies and telecommunications by means of satellites.

III. Publications

1. To publish and distribute in the member countries the most important publications, papers, magazines and books appearing in these countries, and eliminate all obstacles and difficulties hindering exchanges;

2. To develop the PLO research center and the institute for Palestinian studies in Damascus;

3. To publish pamphlets in foreign languages explaining the aims of the front as well as its position on various issues, with the parties concerned in the front supervising the publication;

IV. Film Industry

1. To develop film production in coproduction with the front countries and organize an exchange of films;

2. To give priority to films produced in the front member countries.

V. Conferences

1. To organize a series of international meetings with international writers and journalists known for their friendly attitude to the Arab cause and the Palestinian resistance;

2. To send joint missions of information to nonalined countries, Third World countries and other friendly countries in order to explain the correctness of the front's position on topical national issues such as the new situation in southern Lebanon;

3. To exchange delegations representing the information sector and mass organizations among front countries, as well as workers organizations and trade unions in other foreign countries;

4. To invite the front members to hold a conference for progressive intellectuals and Arab nationalists devoted to the movement of Arab liberation under the present circumstances. The host country will organize a preparatory committee so that the conference can be held in 1978. Other member countries will give any help judged necessary by the preparatory committee;

5. To organize on 5 June 1978 a week of solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in the occupied territories;

6. To organize cultural weeks in the front countries in order to deepen the knowledge of the cultural life of the countries;

7. To organize a cultural festival of the front countries;

8. To hold periodic meetings of managers of press agencies, chief editors of daily papers, leaders of writers' unions and managers of film industry in the front countries in order to develop cooperation and harmonize positions. The chief editors will meet in Damascus, the writers union in Tripoli, the managers of film industry in Algiers and the managers of press agencies in Aden;

9. To support the Egyptian progressive intellectuals struggling to make the voice of Egyptian patriotism heard;

10. To emphasize the struggle of the people of Western Sahara for their right to be independent, laying particular emphasis in the information field on the struggle of African peoples.

ARAB COMMUNIST, WORKERS PARTIES ISSUE STATEMENT

LD2412147 Baghdad TARIQ ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Apr 78 p 1 LD

[Text] Communist and workers parties in the Arab world have asserted that "wide horizons are opening before the valiant struggle of the popular masses and that possibilities exist for defeating imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plots and for marching forward on the path of triumphant struggle and for consolidating the goals of freedom, independence, democracy and social progress."

This came in a statement issued by the parties in mid-April this year in which they review the Arab and international situation.

The statement points to the signs of continuing change in the international arena favoring the forces of peace, liberation and socialism. The statement stresses that while imperialism and the capitalist system have lost the historical initiative for determining the course of international development, they still have the ability to hinder the peoples' march and to cause tension in international affairs. The statement reviews the new method to which imperialism is resorting in this field and acclaims the decisive and increasing role which the world communist movement has played and is still playing.

On the Arab level, the statement of the communist and workers parties in the Arab countries stresses that the liberation movement in the Arab countries has been enriched by the profound and progressive concepts associated with the change in the positions of social forces in these countries, a change that has been politically reflected in many ways.

The statement discusses the stage through which the national Arab liberation movement is passing, referring to the profound political and class developments within the Arab national liberation movement as being one of the most important characteristics of the stage.

After reviewing the various achievements realized in this field, the communist and workers parties in the Arab countries refer in this regard to the imperialist U.S. onslaught in the area and stress that it is part of a worldwide imperialist strategy. After reviewing the events of such an onslaught and its results, the statement defines the current struggle as being between two trends: a national liberation trend and an imperialist-reactionary-capitulationist trend.

In this regard the statement points to the position of the Palestinian resistance movement and refers to the attempts being made to conspire against it and against the Lebanese nationalist movement. The statement touches on the importance of the gulf and the Arabian Peninsula area and the imperialist scheme to dominate it.

After reviewing the nature of the imperialist onslaught and the results to which it has led, the statement points to the shortcomings and negative aspects that have hindered the march of the Arab national liberation movement. The statement stresses the importance of democratic freedoms and guaranteeing the participation of the masses in the nationalist and progressive battles, together with the safeguarding and development of progressive achievements, the protection of national sovereignty, the confronting of conspiracies and the strengthening of cooperation with the countries of the socialist bloc.

The statement defines in detail the factors which make it possible to defeat the present conspiracies and underlines the importance of establishing an Arab nationalist progressive front. The statement also points out the importance of the nationalist and progressive fronts which have been established in several Arab countries. The statement stresses the need to develop methods of action so that these fronts can implement their programs.

In conclusion, the statement of the communist and workers parties in the Arab countries defines the urgent struggle requirements for the establishment of an effective nationalist progressive front throughout the Arab homeland against imperialism and Zionism in order to thwart capitulationist plans, liberate the occupied Arab territories and safeguard the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, struggle to consolidate independence and to achieve democracy, progress and freedom.

The meeting also issued a statement of solidarity with the Lebanese nationalist movement and the Palestinian resistance and a second statement of solidarity with the struggle of the Arab masses against imperialism, Zionism and reaction and for the freedom of all detainees in the prisons of terror and occupation.

[The newspaper carries the text of the statements which it says were issued following a meeting at an undisclosed location of the representatives of the following parties: the Jordanian Communist Party, the Algerian Socialist Vanguard Party, the Sudanese Communist Party, the Syrian Communist Party, the Iraqi Communist Party, the Lebanese Communist Party, the Egyptian Communist Party and the Moroccan Party of Progress and Socialism.]

KUWAIT

OIL MINISTER DENIES OIL PRICE WILL DECREASE

NC2620212Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1923 GMT 26 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 26 April--In a press statement today the Kuwaiti oil minister, Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah, denied that Kuwait has any plans or is thinking about any plans to decrease the price of its oil by 2 percent. He said that reports to this effect are baseless. An international magazine which specializes in petroleum affairs recently reported that Kuwait will reduce the price of its oil by 2 percent.

TUNISIAN FINANCE MINISTER, AMBASSADOR RECEIVED

LD2612342Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Apr 78 LD

[Summary] Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah this morning received the Tunisian finance minister in the presence of the Tunisian ambassador.

SAUDI ARABIA

SAUDI-GABONESE JOINT COMMUNIQUE REPORTED

JN2614542Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 26 April--The kingdom and Gabonese Republic have stressed the need for the withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Arab territories and for giving the Palestinians their legitimate right to determine their future and to return to their homeland. The two sides also condemned armed aggression and the annexation of land by force.

This came in a joint statement issued at noon today on the talks held between Gabonese President Omar Bongo and His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz during President Bongo's visit to the kingdom which began last Sunday and ended today.

The two leaders expressed their desire to strengthen relations, develop ties of friendship between their two countries and expand cooperation in various spheres. The two leaders expressed their satisfaction at the development of the relations between the African and Arab countries and at the success achieved by the conferences of Arab-African cooperation in consolidating full understanding between the African and Arab countries.

The two sides expressed their displeasure at the presence of foreign armed forces in Africa. They stressed the need for the evacuation of these forces in order to establish stability and peace in Africa. They also expressed their displeasure regarding current events in the Horn of Africa. The following is the text of the statement:

His Excellency Gabonese President Omar Bongo made an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in response to the invitation of His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from 23 to 26 April 1978.

President Bongo and the accompanying delegation were accorded a warm reception by the Saudi people.

This expresses the amity and appreciation the Saudi people have for the distinguished guest and his stand in firmly and resolutely supporting the Arab and Islamic issues and the Arab-African cooperation in all fields.

His Excellency President Bongo and His Majesty King Khalid held talks in an atmosphere of amity, frankness and deep understanding. They reviewed various topics, particularly the most important international issues, the current events in the Horn of Africa and bilateral relations between the two friendly countries. In this regard the two leaders expressed their desire to strengthen these relations, develop the ties of friendship between their two countries and expand their cooperation in various spheres.

The talks were attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Amir Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, the crown prince and deputy prime minister; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and head of the national guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general; Dr Rashad Far'un, his majesty the king's personal adviser; Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; Dr Muhammad al-Mulham, minister of state; and Ahmad 'Abdallah Siraj, the director of the Eastern Desk in the Foreign Ministry.

On the Gabonese side, the talks were attended by 'Ali Bongo, the president's son; Georges Rawiri, minister of state for transport and merchant marine; Jean Francois Ntoutoume, personal counselor to the president, in charge of coordination of economic and financial affairs at the presidency and of commercial and civil aviation; (Nogomo Obyang), deputy minister in charge of the foreign affairs and cooperation; (Abu Bakr Ofonomezo), the president's adviser, in charge of international and African affairs; (Jean Piere Lomomba), deputy minister in charge of planning and development and regional administration; Dr (Bin Sinwakyas), the president's adviser in charge of public health and population; (Sahil), the president's adviser in charge of Islamic affairs; (Ngomaguy Onari), assistant commissioner for planning; and the Gabonese ambassador to the kingdom.

The two leaders discussed the Middle East problem and condemned armed aggression and the annexation of land by force. They also stressed the need for the withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Arab territories and for giving the Palestinian people their legitimate right to determine their future and to return to their homeland.

The two leaders expressed their satisfaction at the development of the relations between the African and Arab countries and for the success achieved by the conferences of Arab-African cooperation in consolidating full understanding between the African and Arab countries.

The two leaders asserted their determination to support and help the African regions which are under the yoke of colonialism and racism and to support their just struggle to gain their independence and basic rights. They expressed their displeasure at the presence of foreign armed forces in Africa. They stressed the need for the evacuation of these forces in order to establish stability and peace in Africa. They also expressed their displeasure regarding current events in the Horn of Africa.

President Omar Bongo expressed his thanks to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and to the Saudi people for the warm and friendly reception accorded him and the accompanying delegation during their stay in the kingdom.

President Bongo extended an invitation to His Majesty King Khalid to visit the Gabonese Republic. His majesty accepted the invitation with gratitude and the date of the visit will be fixed at a later date.

FOREIGN MINISTER CONDEMNS ISRAEL IN DAKAR SPEECH

JN2611444Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Dakar, 25 April--His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister and head of the Saudi delegation to the ninth Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers in Dakar, has asserted that Israel's denial of Palestinian rights, its refusal to return Arab Jerusalem to the Arabs, its continued occupation of Arab territory, its recurrent attacks on the Arab states, the latest of which was the attack on southern Lebanon, and its continuous attempt to Judaize holy Jerusalem are clear indications of its insistence on defying the Islamic nation, flouting the will of the international community and slighting world public opinion. This came in the speech which his royal highness delivered today at the conference.

Speaking about the situation in Somalia and Eritrea, his royal highness condemned the acts to which the Moslem Somali people and the Eritrean brothers are exposed, such as the interventions and threats by outside forces which are foreign to the region and Africa. He said that such interventions, whether by Zionists or by certain big powers, or by certain nonalined states, cannot serve the interests of the region but will be at the expense of the region. His highness affirmed that all the Islamic peoples stand by the Somali people and the Eritrean brothers in solving their problems by peaceful means in consistence with the objectives and principles of the Islamic congress and the OAU.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal called upon all foreign forces to stop their interventions and threats and to let the region live in peace, which is sought by all the Islamic and African states.

Speaking about the conditions of Moslem minorities in Asia and Africa, his royal highness said that these minorities are still deprived of their liberties, lands and right to worship. They are still fighting to end the injustice, persecution and racial discrimination they are suffering from. His royal highness affirmed that Saudi Arabia is against discrimination anywhere in the world.

His royal highness greeted the conference in the name of Saudi Arabia--king, government and people--and pointed to the need for bolstering the cooperation between the Islamic congress and the OAU in order to create an atmosphere of fraternity and love in the interest of the crucial issues of the Islamic and African peoples.

His royal highness expressed his belief that the elements of achieving success already exist in the enormous financial and human potential of the Islamic nation and its solidarity, which is making rapid progress. All the international Islamic community needs to do now is to put these unlimited resources in the right place.

Concluding, his royal highness reviewed the achievements of Islamic organizations in developing relations among the Islamic nations and laying the necessary foundations for bolstering existing relations. He said that these organizations still call for collective action.

PETROLEUM MINISTER DISCUSSES OIL, DOLLAR ISSUES

LD261816Y Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 22 Apr 78 p 4 LD

[Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, answers questions submitted by audience and read by Dr Rashid al-Mubarak, member of the Riyadh University science faculty, following Shaykh Yamani's lecture at the university entitled "Rules of the Petroleum Game"--date not given]

[Text] [Question] I had the impression that the "petroleum game" meant the use of oil--among other things--for political purposes and that such use was restricted to the Palestinian Arab problem; that is, its use as a means of political pressure in order to neutralize the Western world's support for Israel. But Your Excellency's reference to the fact that the Islamic bloc owns 70 percent of the world's oil reserves made me understand that this game could also be a good tool if used positively and systematically in the service of Islamic causes. Is this belief or conclusion correct?

[Answer] Yes, the conclusion or belief is undoubtedly correct, and we want the Ismalic countries to support Islamic causes because when the Moslems of the world unite under one banner the world will submit to them. But the Western world will do all it can to divide the Moslems, especially if it feels the effects this great power that Islam possesses. I, as a Moslem, do not believe that God has bestowed the Islamic nation with this vast wealth without a divine purpose. We pray to God that he may give us success in this objective.

[Question] Is petroleum being used as a source of pressure to influence the political decisions of many countries in the service of Arab interests? If not, why not?

[Answer] I believe that petroleum is a political power and weapon and that it was used several times in a manner serving Arab interests. It was used in 1973 not to punish the Western countries but as a means of drawing the attention of Western opinion to two factors: First, that the world is in need of the Arab nation and, second, that there is an Arab-Israeli problem. We have succeeded in this and public opinion in the West and the United States now knows that it needs the Arab nation and that there is an Arab-Israeli problem. It has begun to understand the details and implications of this problem.

We also used petroleum, in accordance with our political thinking, at the Ad-Dawhah [OPEC] meeting in order to let the West know not only that it needs the Arabs, but also that it can depend on them as an effective power. We succeeded in this as well. In fact, despite all the criticism we heard following the Ad-Dawhah conference, both at home and abroad, it has been proved to the Arab nation that the Saudi attitude led to a radical change in U.S. and European public opinion and served the Arab cause.

[Question] Is petroleum power superior to financial power in the game of international relations?

[Answer] I wish my colleague [finance minister] Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl were with us in order to share in answering this question. Perhaps this should prompt the university's administration to invite his excellency to talk about the financial game.

In fact, petroleum is an important political weapon, but it is not absolutely superior to the political power of the financial weapon, a weapon that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia possesses. Unfortunately I am not familiar with the way this political power is currently being used. His Excellency brother Muhammad Aba al-Khayl is the one who can talk to you about this power which, if used in an organized way, would definitely add to our strength, God willing. I hope this will be so.

[Question] I would like Your Excellency to explain the role the 10 Ramadan [October] war played in enabling the oil-producing countries to gain control over their petroleum and to fix a suitable price for it.

[Answer] This is a very important question. Some Arab quarters believe that had it not been for the Ramadan war the oil-producing countries would not have been able to increase their prices, and we would not have plunged into the oceans of wealth we now enjoy. This is wrong. Two months before the Ramadan war we notified the oil companies that we would increase our oil prices sharply. A committee--which I had the honor to chair--was set up in order to negotiate with the oil companies. We met in Vienna, but God decreed that war would break out during the meeting. Those negotiating on behalf of the oil companies were afraid of upsetting the countries they represented. Somehow, in a manner that is still a mystery to me, they were able to make us fix the prices of our oil. Then we set a date for another meeting in Kuwait in order to establish a suitable price for oil. Later the Arab countries agreed to meet in order to decide how to use oil as a means of pressure in the service of the Arab cause. We decided that since the majority of us would meet in Kuwait in order to decide on oil prices, we should also discuss at the Kuwait meeting the Arab decisions on oil. We met there for these two purposes and adopted our decisions. Therefore, there was no connection between what was being rumored and what was being done.

Nevertheless, the turmoil that occurred in the oil markets as a result of the great reduction [in oil production], undoubtedly enabled us to adopt another decision in Teheran to increase oil prices further.

[Question] How great a loss have Saudi Arabia and the United States incurred as a result of the drop in the value of the dollar?

[Answer] With regard to the United States, it is the first to benefit from the drop in the value of the dollar. What is happening now is an American policy aimed at improving the U.S. balance of payments with regard to other industrial states, such as Japan and West Germany. Its objective is also to absorb the surplus interest on oil funds.

As for Saudi Arabia, it has undoubtedly lost a great deal because of the drop in the value of the dollar. But if we look at the drop from the point of view of the amount of oil we sell, then the outlook is different. Should we link prices to special drawing rights or to the currencies by which we import--the currencies of 11 countries which we established and called the second "Geneva basket"? We will not be able to calculate profit and loss until we make calculations backdated to 1976 or 1975. This is a matter in which I do not wish to indulge. But the loss for us Saudis lies in the fact that, first, we obtain our income in dollars at the rate of $12.70 per barrel. We used to convert these dollars to Saudi riyals at the rate of 3.51 riyals to the dollar and spend accordingly to pay wages, various contracts and other things in the kingdom.

Now, despite the fact that we have tried to reduce the value of the riyal as much as possible to make it compatible with the dollar rate, a gap still exists. The dollar rate is now 3.44 riyals. This difference, although small, when multiplied by the amounts we spend at home, allows us to see the magnitude of the first loss.

As for the second loss, it lies in the contracts we conclude with Japan, West Germany, Britain, Switzerland and other countries whose currency rates have increased. We receive dollars, which we then convert into the currencies of those countries, and thus our financial commitments increase by 16 or 20 or 25 percent, according to the country from which we import. This is the second loss.

The third loss is one that occurs on paper. Most of our investments are in U.S. dollars. If the dollar loss is temporary and will be recouped once the dollar rate goes up once again--we believe that the dollar will go up once again--it is in our interest not to take any action that may cause a further fall in the dollar rate. This explains the attitude of Saudi Arabia that you hear about regarding the question of the dollar. It is a sound attitude despite the great loss and despite the fact that it contradicts the attitude of the other oil-producing countries. But it is an attitude that stems from Saudi interest.

[Question] Will you please tell us what stage the negotiations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the companies owning the Aramco Company have reached, and what is the future outlook for this public utility after the government has taken control of it? Will it become a public institute like other institutes?

[Answer] In fact the negotiations have been concluded and we took control of all Aramco facilities in January 1976. Financial arrangements have likewise been completed. But the control agreement has not yet been signed. I hope that it is now in its final stages. The establishment of a national petroleum company to replace the Aramco Company is also in its final stages. It will not be an institution but, God willing, a national company operating on a commercial basis.

[Question] Regarding the world oil market, it is estimated that there will soon be a surplus of 3 billion barrels a day [as published]. Is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia suffering from a cash surplus because it is unable to use all the amounts that accumulate as a result of the kingdom's large volume of production? What prevents the kingdom from reducing production, thus realizing the two objectives of protecting oil prices on the world market and conserving the oil underground rather than selling it for money which is decreasing in value daily because of the drop in the dollar?

[Answer] In fact, if we apply the principle of supply and demand and link it to prices, our supply of oil, as a result of adhering to oil prices and not giving any discounts as some countries do, automatically leads to reducing our production. Production in the kingdom has indeed dropped in accordance with this golden economic rule. It is now 7.5 million barrels instead of 8.5 million barrels [presumably daily]. There has actually been a reduction in Saudi production, as the originator of this question, brother 'Abd ar-Rahman Khalaf, wishes.

[Question] I understand from Your Excellency that oil will not be used against Moslems. But I believe that Your Excellency is aware that accusing fingers are being pointed--alleging that oil is being used against Moslems--I mean the oil of Moslems. For example, Israel is using Iranian oil against the Arabs, and the Philippines receives oil despite the fact that it is trying to uproot Islam and Moslems from its country. What is the kingdom's attitude toward this problem in particular and OPEC's attitude in general?

[Answer] I don't think that the claim that oil is being used against Moslems is true. We have recently heard an implicit threat by Iran against Israel--that it would cut off oil supplies to it if Israel does not act less arrogantly. This is a serious threat to Israel. As for the question of the Philippines, its consumption of oil is small and it can import that amount from many other countries because its situation differs from that of Israel, which is located in the midst of our Arab and Islamic group. Israel is now trying to import oil from Mexico, which is a distant country, and thus its transportation expenses would increase greatly.

[Question] In his recent speech at the opening of the meeting of the Board of Governors of the Arab Bank, His Royal Highness Prince Fahd said that Saudi Arabia will balance its production in order to conserve it for our coming generations. Does this mean that the kingdom will reduce its production?

[Answer] Saudi production has reached very high levels. His royal highness's statement has clarified this matter very precisely. He stressed that the interests of future generations must be taken into consideration despite all the pressures to which we might be subjected.

[Question] The dollar crisis is worsening daily. Will it remain so or will measures be taken to curb this crisis?

[Answer] I have said in response to other questions that I believe that the United States itself planned what is happening now. The reason for this is that the U.S. balance of payments has changed to its disadvantage and that foreign trade is now in favor of Japan, West Germany and other countries. Japan is refusing to lift barriers in the face of foreign imports. Therefore, the United States, by reducing the value of the dollar, is making U.S. goods competitive with Japanese goods in all parts of the world. It is also setting up barriers against Japanese goods so that they will not enter U.S. markets easily. The value of the yen has increased as it is; therefore, after some time the situation will readjust itself once the balance of payments becomes balanced or closer to being balanced, which in turn will normalize the dollar.

Japan and West Germany call for checking the drop in the value of the dollar and try from time to time to make the United States change its policy. The United States usually responds more with words than action. It recently decided to sell some of its gold reserves in order to rectify the situation; nevertheless it is still buying and storing large quantities of oil. This leads to weakening the balance of payments and to a further drop in the dollar. The situation is still ambiguous. I believe the real solution will come through rectifying the foreign trade situation, in which case the United States will be able to rectify the dollar situation without using it as a means of pressure.

[Question] It has been reported in some U.S. newspapers that the United States is preparing to train an army to protect oil interests in the Arab gulf. Will this happen as a reaction to any Soviet move?

[Answer] God only knows. I do not think that the United States would prepare an army [illegible] to protect oil interests against some Soviet move, because such a move would mean a world war. The U.S. Army is already capable of protecting oil interests, but such a measure would lead the Arab oil-producing countries to adopt a national attitude, as happened during the October war. This is another eventuality that would lead to a military or nonmilitary move by the United States. In any case, present conditions do not warrant our further discussion of this matter. We hope that the problem will be solved without a confrontation of this kind.

[Question] In case the dollar continues to fall and the United States decides to devalue it, in Your Excellency's opinion, what is the best way out of this dilemma? Is it increasing oil prices or linking these prices to other currencies, such as the Japanese or German, and why?

[Answer] In the past we linked oil prices to the dollar; then we changed this and linked them to a group of currencies which we called "the first Geneva basket." This currency basket included the dollar. Then we excluded the dollar and set up a second basket which we called "the second Geneva basket," consisting of 11 currencies with which we import from abroad. Then we went back to the dollar once again. In 1975 we decided to link prices with Special Drawing Rights [SDR], but then again we suspended our decision and went back to the dollar. In fact this is a double-edged weapon. If we link ourselves to a group of currencies and the dollar goes up, then we lose. And if we stick to the dollar and its value goes down, then we lose. Therefore, our actions must be wise and calm. Furthermore, Saudi dollar investments are subject to other burdens and considerations that may be different from those of the rest of the oil-producing countries.

[Question] You said that great efforts need to be exerted for a whole generation at least before an economically viable substitute for oil is found. What does this mean?

[Answer] A generation in fact is meant to represent 25 years, but I cannot be sure in the present circumstances. We now expect that after 25 years we will have reached such an advanced technological state that we will be able to rely on new energy sources other than oil. But the matter depends on radical changes in our outlook, our methods of action and our style of work.

[Question] Since everything is bound to come to an end, will you please tell us about substitutes for oil? The kingdom depends on oil revenues and should the oil be exhausted--God forbid--we would have budget deficits in all sectors.

[Answer] Yes, God is going to permit [the oil to be exhausted]. Oil will be exhausted because we produce it. Every barrel that leaves this country will not come back. Oil is going to be exhausted and, in my opinion, it represents industry, mining, agriculture and manpower. Technology and science are the real wealth. Without technology we will remain as we are--a poor, underdeveloped state suffering from all the problems we are suffering now.

[Question] If an oil-producing country stops producing oil, how serious is the impact?

[Answer] Very serious. Some countries cannot stop producing. For example, if Kuwait stops, life there would come to a halt.

This is because the gas used for electricity and water distillation is the gas that comes out with the oil. The same thing applies to Saudi Arabia. We cannot reduce our production below the level of the gas we need, especially if major industries are established in the kingdom. Nevertheless, the gas project which we have begun implementing is, God willing, about to be completed. This project will provide the gas we need for energy for industry as well as for export, depending on how much we can increase or decrease production without jeopardizing our use of it as a political weapon.

[Question] In Your Excellency's talk about the front of producing countries you spoke about various changing factors, such as the volume and quality of production, political tendencies and the sea lanes for oil exports--all of which could be a source of disagreement when a certain strategy needs to be laid down for the petroleum game. Can Your Excellency throw light on three additional factors and discuss their impact and dimensions in this game; namely, increasing or fixing production, increasing or pegging oil prices, and payment in dollars or other currencies?

[Answer] Regarding fixing or increasing production, we have fixed it. This has now led to checking the decline in world oil prices because we have both fixed production and pegged the prices. We have shouldered the burden of reducing production alone. Other countries, like Nigeria, Algeria and Libya, reduce their prices from time to time, but we turn a blind eye to this. When Kuwait also wanted to do so we agreed with it, because the kingdom is a big state and can endure this. We also reduced prices at times, but we resorted to increasing production at one time in order to prevent an excessive increase in oil prices following the Ad-Dawhah conference. However, we did so calmly and within narrow limits. This is because relations with OPEC are far deeper than our relations with any other quarter and our interests are closer and bigger.

As for increasing or pegging the price of oil, I do not believe that the price of oil is now likely to increase, because prices are currently dropping and there is a surplus in world production. As for pegging prices, this we have done even though other countries are not doing the same.

As for payment in dollars or in other currencies, payment must be in dollars. We must distinguish between the use of the dollar as a means of payment and as a means of pricing. I sell a barrel of oil at $12.70 and cannot use other currencies such as the mark or the yen because, otherwise, the following would happen: First, it would lead to a sharp drop in the dollar; second, it is almost impossible to find another currency as large as the U.S. dollar--a currency large enough to accommodate the demands of world oil transactions. No other country would accept the use of its currency in oil transactions. If, for example, we were to use the yen, the Japanese prime minister would come to us in Riyadh and beg us to change our decision because it would shake the Japanese economy. The use of the yen as a means of payment is unimaginable. People who understand currency matters understand this and know that it is impossible.

I can see that there are more than 50 questions yet to be asked, and if I have to answer them all it would take us long hours. However, the large number of questions should encourage me to meet with you again. Peace and God's blessings be upon you.

UAE

PRESIDENT MEETS WITH ARAB MONETARY FUND GOVERNORS

JN262055Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 2005 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 April--UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received here this evening the governors of the Arab Monetary Fund. His highness stressed to the governors the necessity of establishing effective monetary and economic cooperation among the Arab countries because the Arab world is an indivisible whole, no matter what the circumstances are. He recommended the convening of similar meetings in various fields. His Highness Shaykh Zayid expressed his country's readiness to extend every assistance to the Arab economic establishments to attain their goals. He expressed hope that Arab cooperation will succeed in realizing the aspirations of the Arab nation and in transcending superficial differences at this crucial stage of the history of the Arab nation's struggle. His highness also expressed the UAE's readiness to offer all possible assistance and exert every effort to restore Arab solidarity.

ARMY COMMANDER MEETS WITH PLO REPRESENTATIVE

JN261106Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 April--Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the UAE armed forces, this morning received Ribhi Hallum, PLO representative to the UAE. Later, Hallum said that he discussed with His Highness Shaykh Khalifah the latest developments in the military and political situation of the Palestinian revolution, especially in southern Lebanon. Ribhi Hallum said that the Abu Dhabi heir apparent praised the Palestinian fighters' heroic resistance against the Zionist enemy.

YEMEN--YAR

PREMIER DESIGNATE CONTINUES CONSULTATIONS

JN270950Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 27 Apr 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 27 April--The YAR prime minister designate, 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, is currently holding consultations to form the new government. It has been learned from a responsible Yemeni source that the new cabinet will include some of the ministers who served in the former cabinet, plus several new ministers. The cabinet will also include new portfolios. It is worth noting that 'Abd al-Ghani's government, which resigned earlier in the week, was formed in January 1975.

PRESIDENT AL-GHASHMI'S ARMY DAY SPEECH REPORTED

JN270901Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] San'a', 27 April--YAR President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi this morning spoke on the occasion of army and public security day. President al-Ghashmi called on the officers and men to preserve values and morals and to uphold the principles of Islam. The president promised to improve the Army quantitatively and qualitatively and to modernize it in the coming phase. President al-Ghashmi called on army and security men to safeguard the country's security and stability. He said that the Yemeni armed forces have remained the protecting shield of the homeland and their men are the devout guardians of right and justice. At 0800 the Yemeni president reviewed the military parade held on this occasion at the army command headquarters in which token army and public security units took part.

AS-SADAT SENDS 'URGENT' LETTER TO KING KHALID, OTHERS

NC2620202Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Apr 78 NC

[Text] His Majesty King Khalid Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia this evening received an urgent letter from President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat as part of the current contacts on developments in the Middle East problem and the efforts being undertaken to settle this problem in a way that will satisfy national demands.

President as-Sadat has also sent letters to His Majesty King Hasan II of Morocco; His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan; Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait; Shaykh Zayid Ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE; Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar; Sultan Qabus Ibn Sa'id of Oman; Shaykh 'Isa Ibn Salman, the amir of Bahrain; Ahmad Hasan al-Ghashmi, president of the YAR; Habib Bourguiba; president of the Republic of Tunisia; and Siad Barre, president of the Republic of Somalia.

President as-Sadat has also sent a private letter to the shah of Iran as part of the mutual consultations between the two leaders on the Middle East problem.

MUBARAK TO VISIT CENTRAL AFRICA, CHAD, SUDAN

NC2711147Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will leave Cairo Friday enroute to the Central African Empire where he will extend congratulations on Egypt's behalf to Emperor Bokassa on the occasion of his becoming emperor of the Central African Republic.

Later the vice president is scheduled to go to Chad, where he will meet with Chad President Felix Malloum. He will then go to Khartoum, where he will hand Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri a letter from President as-Sadat pertaining to the latest developments in the Middle East and the current contacts aimed at finding a just solution for the Middle East problem.

ATTORNEY GENERAL BRIEFS PRESS ON TERRORIST GROUP

NC2618202Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1643 GMT 26 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 April--Attorney General Ibrahim al-Qalyubi today revealed details of the terrorist plan drawn up by members of the international terrorist organization which was uncovered in Cairo recently. The organization's aim was to assassinate members of one of the joint Egyptian-Israeli committees formed within the framework of the recent peace efforts.

At a press conference he held in his office this afternoon, the attorney general pointed out that this terrorist operation had been drawn up by Sergio Mantovani, a Swiss journalist, working in cooperation with the Khat Fatah as-Sahih [the correct course of Fatah] organization, a breakaway faction of the Fatah organization.

Counsellor Ibrahim al-Qalyubi said the members of the terrorist organization were preparing to contact the Italian Red Brigades organization to involve it in the implementation of a terrorist operation in Switzerland which would have massive repercussions in the Arab world.

Attorney General Ibrahim al-Qalyubi further said that members of the supreme state security intelligence branch have recently arrested in Cairo a number of Jordanians of Palestinian origin for carrying out terrorist activity against the regime in Egypt in cooperation with some foreigners of European origin. He added that the state security intelligence branch has received information indicating that some of those who have been arrested were in contact with an international terrorist organization and that they were preparing to carry out subversive activities within the state as part of their plans.

The investigations carried out by the supreme state security prosecution department reveal that Swiss journalist Sergio Mantovani, by virtue of his specialization in Middle East affairs and problems in the news section of Swiss television, was in contact with various Palestinian organizations and that he came to Egypt in 1975 to study Arabic in order to understand the dimensions of the Palestinian question.

The Swiss journalist said in his confession that throughout his stay in Egypt he was in contact with Palestinian organizations, particularly Fatah, to assist it in its activities in the information field by editing articles supporting its views. Sergio Mantovani said he had supported the dissension of Fatah member 'Awad Khalil 'Abd al-Qadir, who formed a special wing called the Vanguards [at-tali'iyin], and had consolidated his ties with the activities of the splinter group which broke away from the original Fatah organization.

Counsellor al-Qalyubi also said that during the time he spent in Switzerland, the Swiss journalist met with his old friend George Bilinni, one of the owners of the (Echo) library in Zurich. Bilinni, who is known for his leftist leanings, conveyed the desire of the Red Brigades organization to hold a political dialog with the leftist Palestinian organizations.

The attorney general added that on his return to Cairo in September 1977, Sergio Mantovani conveyed this desire to 'Awad Khalil 'Abd al-Qadir, who referred him to Muhsin 'Arif Husayn, one of the Palestinian leaders and the chief of the dissident Khat Fatah as-Sahih organization, who agreed to a contact with the terrorist organization. Counsellor al-Qalyubi further said that defendant Mantovani communicated this approval to his friend Bilinni, who came to Cairo last February with (Elena Bajli) and discussed with defendant Muhsin 'Arif Husayn the details of the proposed contact with the Red Brigades group.

The attorney general went on to say that in his confessions to the prosecution, Mantovani said that his friend Bilinni, during his stay in Cairo, submitted to him a proposal by the extremist Palestinians in Europe providing for carrying out a terrorist action against members of one of the Egyptian-Israeli committees which met in Cairo recently within the framework of the peace efforts. Mantovani further admitted, the attorney general went on, that Bilinni received $8,000 from Wadi' Haddad's terrorist group, which broke away from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine as a price for preparing for this operation, and that together with (Elena Bajli), he photographed the Mena House Hotel from inside and outside and the roads leading to it and that after going to Switzerland he sent a Swiss journalist called (Valo) to photograph the hotel again.

Defendant Muhammad Husayn al-'Arif confirmed the statements by defendant Mantovani on contact with the Red Brigades organization and the preparation for the terrorist operation. He explained that the Khat Fatah as-Sahih organization is a Palestinian group which follows a political line rejecting the leadership of the Fatah organization and opposing the principle of peaceful settlement and the efforts exerted within the framework of this principle, including President as-Sadat's recent initiative.

The investigation revealed that some members of the terrorist organizations have issued leaflets against the regime in Egypt.

Counselor Ibrahim al-Qalyubi said that the investigations have disclosed the role which the other defendants, who are under preventive detention, played in establishing the contact between members of the terrorist group and members of the dissident Palestinian groups. The attorney general explained that some defendants have confessed to the charges against them while others have denied them. The state security prosecution is continuing its interrogation of the following 24 defendants in the case:

1. Sergio Mantovani, 34, a Swiss journalist studying Arabic in Egypt.
2. Muhammad 'Arif Hasan Alus, 23, a Palestinian student expelled from Rome University.
3. (Alvira Marnita Gunter), 24, a West German student at the American University of Cairo.
4. Kamal al-'Arabi Husayn 'Ali 'Abdallah Bani Hani, 19, a student at the Cairo medical college.
5. Amal 'Abd al-Karim 'Abd al-Mu'tl Mabruk, 20, a student at the Al-Mansurah medical college.
6. Muhammad Sa'id Salman al-Haj, 22, a Jordanian student at the Al-Mansurah law college.
7. Husni Ahmad Yusuf Abu Yahya, 25, a Jordanian student at the Az-Zaqaziq law college.
8. Nabil Rashid 'Ali Hijazi, 21, a Palestinian student at the Al-Mansurah medical college.
9. Nadirah Rashid 'Ali Hijazi, 20, a Palestinian student at the Al-Mansurah medical college.
10. Sadiqah Sa'di Ramiz ash-Shakhshiri, 20, a student at the Al-Mansurah medical college.
11. Nizar Shihadah Bashir 'Ali az-Zu'bi, 21, a Jordanian student at the Hulwan technological institute.
12. Ilham Farid 'Atiyyah Mustafa 'Abbas 'Isa, 20, a Jordanian student at the Al-Mansurah medical college.
13. Jamal Mithqal Muhammad Hassunah, 22, a Palestinian student at the Shibin al-Kawm education college.
14. Fayruz Yusuf As'ifan, 20, a student at the Al-Mansuran medical college.
15. Na'il Hamid Sa'id Murtaja, 21, a student at the Al-Mansurah pharmaceutical college.
16. Jamil Salim Muhammad Jabr, 22, a student at 'Ayn Shams education college.
17. Jalilah Ha'ib 'Abdallah, 19, an Omani student at the Cairo commerce college.
18. Majid Sa'id 'Awdah Mas'ud, 22, a Palestinian student at the Al-Mansurah engineering college.

19. Victoria (Francisca Catherine), alias Doris, 28, a Swiss housewife.
20. (Jean Batista Bakta), 27, a Swiss journalist.
21. 'Imad ad-Din Sa'id Abu Khalaf, 21, a Palestinian student at the Al-Mansurah law college.
22. 'Abd al-Hadi Khalil Ashtiyan al-Mawadhah, 22, a student at the Al-Mansurah pharmaceutical college.
23. Raja'i Mustafa Dawud al-Khatib, 22, a student at the Hulwan technological institute.
24. Mustafa Muhammad Husayn, an Egyptian student at the Al-Mansurah law college.

AL-AHRAR REPORTS TALK OF CABINET RESHUFFLE

LD2518457 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 24 Apr 78 p 1 LD

[Text] There is currently talk about a cabinet reshuffle, which is expected to take place during the first week of May. Three ideas are being proposed for the reshuffle:

The first is to form a new ministerial economic group whose ministers would cooperate with the government. This is because in the opinion of Deputy Prime Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Qaysuni difficult economic measures must be taken and the ruling centrist party should undertake to convince the people of the need for these measures. All the ministers of the economic group support Al-Qaysuni in this regard.

Al-Qaysuni and his group argue that a practical economic decision must be taken and that the government and the progovernment party should undertake to convince the people of this difficult decision so that they will participate in implementing it.

But the ruling party refuses new economic measures, saying that the people will not be able to endure them. So the government endorsed the new workers law and passed it to the People's Assembly without submitting it to the economic group.

This step is believed to be a major cause of strong disagreement between Mamduh Salim and Dr al-Qaysuni.

AL-AHRAR has learned that among the leading candidates to replace Al-Qaysuni is Dr 'Ali al-Jaryatli. Al-Jaryatli was previously nominated to form a cabinet before the last People's Assembly elections.

The second idea is that the cabinet reshuffle should affect a number of ministers who were the subject of much controversy, such as Minister of Information and Culture 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi, who submitted the draft press law which was rejected by the Union of Journalists, the bar association, and a large number of People's Assembly members because it restricts press freedom. As-Sawi also caused an uproar because he sold the Egyptian movie establishment to foreign investment companies. It is proposed to drop from the cabinet Minister of Justice Samih Tal'at, who submitted the draft law of the higher constitutional court which was rejected.

The third idea under discussion is to carry out a total cabinet change whereby the prime ministership will be assigned to someone who will have complete freedom to choose members of the new government; no ministers will be imposed on him.

AL-AHRAR has learned that if the latter idea is adopted, no early cabinet reshuffle will be carried out so that no further reshuffle will need to be carried out shortly afterwards.

AL-AHRAM ON ISRAELI VIOLATIONS, CARTER'S OPTIMISM

NC270845Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 27 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] The Cairo papers today highlight news agency reports quoting southern Lebanon inhabitants as saying that the Israeli forces are about to establish the first Israeli settlement in south Lebanon: the Israeli forces have moved about 10 prefabricated houses to a plain located in a triangle connecting the villages of Marj 'Uyun, Al-Qulay'ah and Al-Khiyam.

The Cairo papers report the reaction this Israeli measure has roused among the inhabitants of Al-'Urqub area because despite the fact that the Israelis have told them these houses are nothing more than a temporary Israeli camp, they are apprehensive lest this measure turns into an advanced paramilitary Israeli position, even if the Israeli forces were to withdraw from the three Lebanese villages.

Commenting on the continued Israeli violations of the UN resolutions and international agreements and treaties which define the commitments of a state that has imposed a military occupation on the territories of another state, AL-AHRAM says: At a time when Carter said in his press conference that he continues to be optimistic regarding the peace possibilities and at a time when he asked Congress to approve the arms deal to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel as one deal, Begin has been saying that his government will not sign any agreement detrimental to the future of the Israeli settlements in northern Sinai and that he will not change his government's stand on the West Bank and Gaza.

AL-AHRAM adds: Moreover, Israel has been continuing its oil exploration in Egyptian lands and territorial waters that are under its occupation. By doing this, Israel has violated the UN resolutions and all the international agreements and treaties which define the commitments of a state which has imposed a military occupation on the territories of another state and forbid it from exploiting and plundering the resources of that state.

In conclusion AL-AHRAM wonders whether in the light of all these proofs, there is anything left to justify Carter's optimism or whether these declared Israeli stands will be reflected in the topics which Dayan and Begin will discuss with the U.S. officials in Washington.

AL-MUSAWWAR WARNS ISRAEL MIGHT LAUNCH NEW WAR

NC270926Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 27 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 April--The weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR warns today that Israel might launch a new aggression, stronger and more violent than the one launched against south Lebanon, taking advantage of negative factors the Arab world is currently experiencing.

In an article by its chief editor, Sabri Abu al-Majd, the magazine explains these negative factors by pointing out that many people in the Arab world have not yet assimilated the seriousness of the international circumstances the area is (?experiencing) at present, nor have they risen above their party and personal differences and disagreements which are impeding unified Arab action.

The writer then refers to the future of the Palestinian resistance. He says that some people cannot imagine that Lebanon might be lost as a springboard for the Palestinians just as Jordan was lost. When Lebanon and Jordan were lost as far as the Palestinians are concerned, we do not know which Arab territory can serve as a springboard for the Palestinian struggle.

The writer then deals with the effect these negative factors are having on the current efforts to convene a new Arab summit conference, pointing out that some states are raising unacceptable conditions for convening the conference. He says that some states have stipulated that Egypt should declare the failure of the peace initiative and have said it has completely closed all doors leading to the achievement of peace. He says that such talk is an unparalleled humiliation for the Egyptian people, who believe that the initiative has completely achieved its aims.

The writer asks: Are we prepared for war? Let us suppose that Egypt has closed the door to a peaceful solution. Do those who reject such a solution want war?

Sabri Abu al-Majd says that the answer to these questions is known: We must fight to the last Egyptian soldier and the last plane and tank because this war, in some people's view, is an Egyptian war in which Egypt should sacrifice the prime of its youth as it has done in the previous four wars.

U.S. INCLINED TOWARD SUBMITTING PEACE PLAN

NC2615252 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Apr 78 NC

[Commentary by 'Abd al-'Azim Hammad]

[Text] Although ambiguity shrouds the current contacts regarding the situation in the Middle East, observers, nevertheless, have been able to deduce--from following diplomatic developments since the Egyptian initiative--that the peace efforts are now getting on a definite course. This course is represented by the inclination of U.S. policy to crystallize and submit a plan for a settlement through a purely U.S. initiative.

Observers base their analysis on a number of facts:

1. U.S. policy is still fully committed to a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

2. The Arab side has affirmed beyond doubt its intention to shoulder all its obligations toward such a settlement.

3. Israel's failure to change its attitude will not lead to the desired settlement.

4. The United States, which is trusted by both the Arabs and Israel and which possesses several instruments to influence the situation in the Middle East, is more qualified than any other international quarter to submit initiatives and use its persuasive power.

In addition to these facts, which have led observers to deduce that the U.S. policy is now disposed to submit a purely U.S. visualization of the content of a settlement and the ways to achieve it, there are other indications which can be deduced if one follows and analyzes the statements by U.S. officials, and Israeli officials as well.

For example, diplomatic sources in Washington said 2 days ago that President Carter is expected to submit a plan for a settlement in the Middle East in May, following the intensive contacts which the United States has held with all the parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Further proof of this is the fact that Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, during his recent visit to Romania, implied that the only alternative is for the United States to submit a U.S. plan for a settlement, although such a plan could prove harmful to Israel, according to Dayan.

Moreover, news dispatches reported from Tel Aviv yesterday that Dayan's talks in Washington will center on finding a feasible plan for achieving a peace agreement.

We should take a short pause now to say that this anticipated disposition by U.S. policy is undesirable to Israel. Therefore, what the Israeli information media are saying, citing Israeli officials as proof of the existence of this tendency, does not necessarily mean that Israel welcomes it. More correctly, Israel is finding itself compelled to go along with it.

It goes without saying that it is necessary for the United States to adopt such a step if there really is an intention to establish peace in the Middle East. This is in addition to the fact that the anticipated U.S. step is the most realistic and useful method in the light of current conditions in the Middle East.

However, we would like to affirm that the acid test of the suitability of any peaceful initiative is whether this initiative complies with the facts of the situation in the area. This means that any peace formula must have two components: security and peaceful coexistence in return for the restoration of the occupied territories to their owners and the restoration of the political and human rights of the Palestinian people. What is required is a just peace that will be permanent; what is not required is something merely designed to break the impasse just to give the impression of progress.

AL-AKHBAR: USSR, GDR WANT CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

LD242340Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 21 Apr 78 p 4 LD

[Text] Isma'il an-Naqib writes: 'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Sharqawi, general secretary of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization [AAPSO], has declared that the Soviet Union and East Germany welcome the resumption of cordial relations with Egypt. The Soviet Union, he said, welcomes the halting of propaganda campaigns between the two countries. As for the GDR, no hostile propaganda campaigns are conducted between the two countries.

Following his return from the Soviet Union and the GDR, where he held a series of talks in Moscow with the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, whose members include members of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, Ash-Sharqawi said that the talks aimed at paving the way for the exchange of visits by politicians between Cairo, Moscow and Berlin.

He described the outcome of his talks as fruitful and good. He said he felt that there was sincere desire by those concerned to overcome the present situation and to restore relations to normal as well as to strengthen such relations and to restore them to their previous state. Ash-Sharqawi said that Moscow is anxious to keep the AAPSO headquarters in Cairo.

He said the talks dealt with the need to improve relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union and that there was evident desire for such improvement. For this reason both sides expressed the desire to halt propaganda campaigns against each other, he said.

He said that one of the signs of the desire to maintain relations between the Arabs and the Soviet Union is that the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee decided to hold a conference in support of Palestine in the Soviet Union in May. The committee will invite several personalities to attend the conference.

Ash-Sharqawi said he was equally welcomed in the GDR, which is an associate member of AAPSO and one of the most active regarding solidarity between peoples. He said that in the GDR they agreed to print the AAPSO magazine as part of the cooperation between the organization and the GDR. They have also shown a desire to continue cooperation in all fields, particularly the economy and culture. Ash-Sharqawi said: In the GDR they particularly stress economic and industrial aspects, especially since the United Nations considers the GDR the 10th world industrial state.

He said a number of senior German officials attended the reception at the Egyptian Embassy. These officials had not entered the embassy for some time, since relations were strained. Ash-Sharqawi said in conclusion that the coming days will witness improvement in these relations and that politicians from the Egyptian and Soviet sides will maintain solidarity and cooperate for the good of the Egyptian people, the Soviet people and the German people and in order to achieve the peoples' common aspirations for progress and peace.

INFORMATION MINISTER AS-SAWI LEAVES FOR KHARTOUM

NC252216Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 April--Minister of Information and Culture 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi left Cairo for Khartoum this evening on a 2-day visit to Sudan, where he will attend the meetings of the Egyptian-Sudanese joint technical committee for integration in the fields of culture, information and religious affairs.

The committee, which will open its meetings tomorrow, will discuss ways to achieve integration and cooperation between the information, culture and religious affairs organs of the two countries within the framework of political and economic integration.

IRAQI RCC TO FORM NEW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETIES

JN242122Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 April--The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has decided to form nine [as received] friendship societies with peoples. The RCC decision, published in the official gazette today, lists the countries with which Iraqi friendship societies will be formed: America, the FRG, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Austria, Norway, Finland and Iceland.

There are numerous friendship societies with various peoples in Iraq. These societies work to acquaint other peoples with Iraq and its stand toward Arab and international issues, and to strengthen friendly ties with the peoples of various countries.

YUGOSLAVIA SIGNS CONTRACT FOR POWER NETWORK IN IRAQ

JN201926Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[Summary] Baghdad, 20 April--Iraq and Yugoslavia signed a contract here today for the construction of a high-voltage electric power network with a capacity of 400,000 volts and with a length of 400 km. The project will cost $15 million. The first phase of the project is now being implemented and includes the construction of four secondary power transformers in Khawr az-Zubayr in southern Iraq, Al-Qadisiyah and Baghdad in central Iraq, and Al-Qa'im in western Iraq. The first phase of the project includes the extension of one line to link these four transformers with a major power station in the southern area. This phase is expected to be completed early next year.

YUGOSLAV FINANCIAL DELEGATION ENDS VISIT

JN230830Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0756 GMT 23 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 April--Kazimir Vidas, Yugoslav Finance Ministry under secretary and chairman of the Yugoslav side in the subcommittee for banking and financial cooperation stemming from the joint Iraqi-Yugoslav committee for scientific, economic and technical cooperation, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad today at the end of a 4-day visit to Iraq.

Vidas said prior to his departure that his visit was within the framework of strengthening the friendly relations between the two friendly countries and consolidating the existing cooperation between them in the banking and financial fields.

BELGIAN DELEGATION SIGNS ECONOMIC COOPERATION MINUTES

JN261833Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 April--Iraq and Belgium signed here today joint minutes for economic and technical cooperation between them. Hasin 'Ali, member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of trade, signed the minutes for Iraq while Foreign Trade Minister Hektor de Bruyne signed for Belgium.

The minutes include the determination to develop trade, economic relations and technological cooperation between the two countries. The minutes also provide for continuing contacts to draw up the legal framework for developing cooperation between Iraq and Belgium in the fields of agriculture, industry, irrigation, construction, agricultural industrialization and the transfer of technology.

In a speech after signing the minutes, Hasan 'Ali, member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of trade, said that the joint minutes are an expression of the developing economic relations between the two countries. He said that the minutes will undoubtedly serve as a springboard for furthering economic and technical relations between the two countries in 1979.

Belgian Foreign Trade Minister de Bruyne expressed his pleasure at the development of economic relations and technical cooperation between the two countries, as confirmed in the joint minutes.

Belgian Delegation Departs

JN271308Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 27 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 27 April--A Belgain delegation led by Hektor de Bruyne, minister of foreign trade, left Baghdad for home this morning at the end of a 5-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA before his departure, de Bruyne praised the relations of cooperation between his country and Iraq and said these relations are developing day after day as confirmed in the joint minutes on cooperation signed last evening. He added that the joint minutes have set forth an integrated program for bilateral cooperation in various spheres.

GREEK ECONOMIC DELEGATION LEAVES AFTER WEEKLONG VISIT

JN251410Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0912 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 April--A Greek economic delegation led by Di Volis, director general of the Ministry of Commerce, left Baghdad today at the end of a weeklong visit to Iraq.

During the visit, the members of the delegation held talks with officials at the Ministry of Trade. These talks complemented the sessions of the Joint Iraqi-Greek committee, which met in Athens last January and which ended with the signing of a joint minutes on trade and economic exchanges between the two countries.

Di Volis stressed that the friendly atmosphere that prevails in Iraqi-Greek relations will enable the two countries effectively to develop and strengthen cooperation in various spheres.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING DELEGATION GOES TO POLAND

JN251510Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 April--A delegation from the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, led by Ministry Under Secretary Shakir Mahmud Ahmad, left for Warsaw today on a week-long visit to Poland.

In a predeparture statement, Ahmad said that the delegation will hold negotiations with Polish officials, consultants and experts on the general housing plan for Iraq. The delegation will also study Poland's work in the field of prefabricated houses.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM DPRK COUNTERPART

JN261225Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 April--Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi received a letter today from DPRK Foreign Minister Ho Tam concerning the nonalined movement and coordinating the positions of their two countries during the movement's conferences. The letter was conveyed to Dr Hammadi by DPRK Roving Ambassador (Hwank Son).

IRAQI ECONOMIC DELEGATION LEAVES FOR DPRK

JN221336Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 April--An Iraqi economic delegation headed by Hazim Ahmad 'Abdallah, director general of the Department of Economic Relations With Socialist States in the Foreign Ministry, left for the DPRK this afternoon. During the visit the delegation will discuss economic cooperation between Iraq and the DPRK and means to strengthen this cooperation in all fields.

The delegation includes representatives from the ministries of industry and minerals, agriculture and agrarian reform, public works and housing, and oil.

VICE PRESIDENT TO VISIT SPAIN, CUBA, ELSEWHERE

JN261402Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 April--Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf will begin an official visit to Spain, Cuba, Mauritania and Malta within the next few days.

The foreign ministry issued a statement today saying that these visits come at the invitation of the governments of these countries.

Ma'ruf will be accompanied on this visit by a high-level official delegation made up of Foreign Minister Sa'du Hammadi; 'Abd al-Malik al-Yasin, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and several specialists from various ministries, including representatives of INA, radio and television.

AFRICAN LEADER NKOMO, DELEGATION ARRIVE BAGHDAD

JN271043Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 27 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 April--Joshua Nkomo, coleader of the National Front for the Liberation of Zimbabwe, arrived in Baghdad at noon today at the head of a delegation on a short visit to Iraq at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command.

The African leader will hold talks with officials at the National Command on developments in the African situation and the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe for liberation and independence.

BRIEFS

ICELAND'S AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--Baghdad, 20 April--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr received here today Petur Thorsteinsson, Iceland's nonresident ambassador to Iraq, who presented his credentials. Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi attended the ceremony. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN]

IRAQ'S AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL--Brasilia, 25 April--Dr Sayd Haydar, new Iraqi ambassador to Brazil, presented his credentials to President Ernesto Geisel yesterday during a special ceremony in the Brazilian capital. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1842 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN]

OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA--Baghdad, 25 April--Mahdi Muhsin 'Awdah, under secretary of the Ministry of Trade for external economic relations, left for Prague at noon today on a several days visit to Czechoslovakia. During his trip he will visit the BRNO International Fair for Consumer Goods, which opened last Friday. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1104 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN]

HUSAYN LEAVES ON 3-DAY VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

JN261250Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman this morning for the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on an offical 3-day visit at the invitation of Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito. During his visit, his majesty will hold official talks with Yugoslavia's president on current international issues, particularly the Middle East conflict, and on ways to strengthen bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.

His Majesty was seen off at Amman airport by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; the speaker of the Senate; the acting prime minister; the commander in chief of the armed forces; His Excellency Nasir ibn Jamil; His Highness Price Ra'd ibn Zayd, the chief chamberlain; and ministers and senior government officials.

His majesty is accompanied on this visit by Mudar Badran, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; His Excellency Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the royal court; 'Amir Khammash, minister of court; and several aides.

His Higheness Crown Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath before His Majesty King Husayn and the cabinet as his majesty's regent during his absence.

A royal decree was also issued stipulating that Dr 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of education, will act as acting prime minister. Another royal decree was issued appointing 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, minister of information, as acting minister of foreign affairs.

Visit Begins

For reportage on King Husayn's visit to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia see the Yugoslavia section of the 28 April Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL DISCUSSES REPLY TO HUSAYN SPEECH

JN251430Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The National Consultative Council held a session under Ahmad al-Lawzi, speaker of the council, at noon today. The session was attended by Mudar Badran, the prime minister.

Al-Lawzi explained that the committee, which was formed yesterday to prepare a reply to the royal speech, held two consecutive sessions to lay down the principles as well as the phrasing of a reply to His Majestey King Husayn's speech. He added that the committee had exerted its efforts so that the reply would highlight the principles and pillars of Jordanian policy.

The committee rapporteur then read the formula drawn up for the reply speech. All aspects of the reply were discussed by the council members, and then it was unanimously approved.

The council also considered the selection of a date for the weekly session of the council It was decided that Monday would be the day for the weekly session. It was also decided to hold the next session on next Tuesday.

Al-Lawzi has invited the Legal Committee to meet at 1600 tomorrow in order to draw up the internal bylaws for the council as soon as possible.

Issues Reply

JN2521107 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn today received at Al-Hashimiyah Palace Mr Ahmad al-Lawzi, speaker of the National Consultative Council, and the members of the council's committee which is to reply to his majesty's speech at the opening of the council's first session. Mr al-Lawzi presented the council's reply to his majesty. The king wished the speaker and the members of the council success in serving the country.

The meeting was attended by the chief of the royal court, Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf. Following is the text of the council's reply:

Your Majesty, God has honored Jordan through its inheritance of the principles of the great Arab revolution, which was led by your grandfather, Al-Husayn ibn 'Ali. These principles can be summed up in the Arabs' right to freedom and unity. Jordan, therefore, remains proud to belong to the Arab nation and will always be faithful to national Arab goals. Jordan has always proved its pride in belonging to the Arab nation and demonstrated its faith in its purposes.

Jordan has never yielded any pan-Arab right and has never hesitated to carry out any Arab task. Your Majesty's initiative during the present circumstances of Arab disintegration and your call for a closing of the ranks, unifying our aims and pooling our resources to face the common danger, and Jordan's firm commitment to defend the Arab rights in Palestine, is a sincere expression of our people's national commitment on the Arab level and Arab faith in our people's aspirations for the cherished Arab unity. Our council is very proud of your reaffirmation of the principle of Arab unity, its pan-Arabism and its destiny and fate.

The council regards this affirmation as a springboard and a principle for planning and analysis. Our council rejects regionalism and communalism, because they are completely contradictory to the national existence and the national logic.

We agree with Your Majesty that Jordan's link to the Palestinian cause has always been a connection of brotherhood, kinship and fate. When the unity of the two banks took place as a result of a spontaneous popular will, it was an affirmation of an already existing reality which had been forged in the crucible of history from time immemorial. This step was a successful experiment in unity during the present generation. The treacherous occupation has imposed a formula change on this relationship, and yet the unity of destity, interest, pain and hope still unites us with strong ties which, God willing, will not be severed.

Therefore, under your leadership, Jordan remained faithful to its duties to the cause. It defended the Arab rights in Palestine, bore the brunt of confrontation and relentlessly called upon the Arab brothers to unite to face the danger and to rely on rationalism and long term planning as a means to liberate the occupied territories and enable the Arab people of Palestine to realize their legitimate rights on their own land. We only hope that the Arab heads of state will respond to Your Majesty's call and end their differences, ignore petty problems and prepare tremendous Arab resources to ward off the looming danger which threatens the Arab present and future.

Your brave Arab army shouldered the responsibility of defending Palestinian soil and has been confronting the enemy along the longest defense lines to thwart the Zionist plots of expansion.

This stems from its national duty, from its traits of manhood and honor and from its many sacrifices which have always been the base of its military tradition. Our army defends not only the country but also the countries and wealth which are beyond Jordan. Therefore, the duty of self-defense and national interests demand that the able Arabs should unstintingly and boundlessly aid this army.

FURTHER REPORT ISSUED ON HUSAYN PRESS INTERVIEW

JN2513492 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has warned that the situation in the Middle East will not change unless the Arabs unite and direct their efforts to building up their intrinsic power.

In an interview with the Lebanese newspaper AN-NAHAR published today, his majesty said that Israel's interpretation of UN Security Council Resolution 242 is only a ploy behind which Israel hides its desire to evade withdrawal from Arab territories. The king further said that this resolution, in letter and spirit as understood by all countries of the world, calls for settling the problem on the basis of an Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, namely the West Bank, including Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, Sinai and the Golan.

His majesty added that he sees no chance for peace in the Middle East until Israel is ready to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. The Arab countries, his majesty said, have tremendous financial capabilities to build a strong military force to confront Israel, but, unfortunately, they have not utilized their potentials for this purpose.

His majesty warned against Israel's possible possession of atomic weapons, which it might use in case of need. He then called on the Arabs to dispose of their differences, divisions and disintegration which lead to more weakness, thereby encouraging Israel in its intransigent stand.

LABOR DELEGATION LEAVES FOR PAKISTAN

JN2709592 Amman AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Apr 78 p 12 JN

[Text] Amman--An official delegation led by 'Isam 'Ajluni, minister of labor, left Amman for Islamabad last evening on a visit to Pakistan lasting several days. During the visit, the minister will hold talks with Pakistani officials on the scope of cooperation between the two countries, the conclusion of an agreement on technical cooperation and the organization and movement of the labor force between the two countries. The members of the delegation will also discuss possibilities for setting up joint projects, expanding trade and developing cooperation in science and technology between the two countries.

The delegation includes representatives from the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the National Planning Council and the Director of Employment.

The Jordanian ambassador to Pakistan and the cultural attache there will also join the delegation.

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES MEETS ON DETENTE FORMULA

NC2710437 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies held a public session under Chamber Speaker Kamil al-As'ad at 1130 today with 74 deputies attending. The government is represented by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the ministers. The session was later turned into a closed one. We point out that today's session is dedicated to discussing and approving the national agreement formula prepared earlier by a committee representing all the parliamentary blocs.

SARKIS MEETS WITH AL-HUSS, COMMANDER AL-KHATIB

NC2615107 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Apr 78 NC

[Text] At 1315 today President Ilyas Sarkis held a working meeting attended by the outgoing prime minister, Dr Salim al-Huss, and the commander of the Arab deterrent forces, Lt Col Sami al-Khatib. The meeting lasted until 1430.

Lieutenant Colonel al-Khatib stated later: We discussed the measures which must be adopted in these circumstances. We also discussed logistics problems of the Arab deterrent forces, delays in financing and methods to be followed in order to finance these forces on a timely basis. We reviewed a new plan for the movement of the deterrent forces in the future and everything is proceeding as well as can be expected.

Prime Minister al-Huss said that it was a routine meeting and there is nothing new regarding the appointment of a prime minister.

SARKIS MEETS PAN-ARAB FRONT DELEGATION

NC2619557 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] President Sarkis today received a delegation of the pan-Arab [alqawmiyah] front. The delegation consisted of Kamal Shatila, 'Abdallah al-Amin and 'Isam al-Mahayrah.

After the meeting, Shatila said: Our discussion dealt with a comprehensive solution in the country, not with the formation of a government. We appreciate the difficult nature of the circumstances through which the country is passing.

Asked about the pan-Arab front's stand on the statement issued by the 13-man parliamentary committee, Shatila said: The meeting in itself was a step toward unity, although we are not represented in parliament.

About the front's meeting with the president, Shatila said: We discussed the question of southern Lebanon and the Israeli withdrawal. We expressed our views on the bases for a comprehensive national detente.

The delegation later visited Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Kamil al-As'ad. After the visit Shatila said: Our visit to Speaker al-As'ad was for consultations on current Lebanese questions. We exchanged views on current developments.

REACTIONS TO PARLIAMENTARY AGREEMENT REPORTED

Sham'un Expresses Optimism

NC261620Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 26 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Former President Camille Sham'un made a statement today expressing optimism regarding the draft agreement. He said: The word agreement in itself has a good effect on the country. This is what we have been seeking all along. I hope the Chamber of Deputies will approve this agreement tomorrow.

As for the Palestinians, Sham'un said: I do not expect a positive reaction from them, because if they had been wise and logical from the beginning they would not have initiated the war against Lebanon. This is in addition to the fact that some Arab states have given them evil advice instead of showing them what is good for Lebanon, the Arabs and Palestine.

Islamic Council Satisfied

NC261950Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] The Islamic Council has expressed satisfaction with the psychological relaxation brought about by the parliamentary agreement. The Islamic Council met under the chairmanship of Lawyer Shafiq al-Wazzan to study the parliamentary formula for national detente.

After the meeting the Islamic Council released a statement. After reviewing its stand, the Islamic Council declared the following:

1. The parliamentary formula reflects national and fundamental Lebanese principles by firmly expressing belief in the need to safeguard the integrity, sovereignty and security of Lebanon and its democratic system. These principles are also reflected in Lebanon's commitment to the Arab issue, particularly the issue of the Palestinian people and their right to restore their land and to exercise their national and political rights in their territory.

2. The resolutions adopted at the Riyadh and Cairo summit conferenced are a sound definition of the principles agreed upon to end the fighting and to make the security situation.

3. The clarifications the Chamber of Deputies gave the formula, particularly those aspects related to the Cairo Agreement, provide a basis for approving the formula proceeding from the need to preserve Lebanese and Palestinian interests.

4. The Islamic Council expresses satisfaction at the psychological relaxation brought about by the agreement. The council hopes that efforts will continue and contacts will intensify for further reassurances so that there may be a comprehensive accord within and outside the Chamber of Deputies and among the political forces concerned.

The council concluded its statement by urging the Lebanese to be aware of the dangers of the Israeli occupation. The council called for unity of Lebanese ranks in order to end the Israeli occupation and to solve other questions in order to restore vitality and stability to the homeland and bring about its progress and prosperity.

Nationalists Issue Criticism

JN262050Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 26 April--The Nationalist and Progressive parties in Tripoli in northern Lebanon have condemned the resolutions [muqarrarat] adopted last Sunday by the 13-member parliamentary committee and warned against the complications of the suspicious initiatives of some parliamentary blocs.

In a statement issued after an emergency meeting held this evening, these parties stressed the need to give absolute priority at this stage to the elimination of the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon, checking all schemes for sectarian and class domination and abiding by the rules of democratic action.

The statement added that balanced democratic participation should be adopted in the various government institutions as well as in popular representation, administration and reconstruction of the state's organs, foremost of which is the army.

The statement added that the present agreements concluded between the Lebanese authority and the PLO are the basis for regulating Lebanese-Palestinian relations. The Nationalist and Progressive parties in northern Lebanon stressed their adherence to the unity, Arabism and national destiny of Lebanon in face of the Zionist danger.

OFFICIAL MEETS FRENCH, SENEGALESE AMBASSADORS

NC261302Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Shaykh Najib ad-Dahdah, secretary general of the Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Ministry, today held consultations with French Ambassador in Beirut Hubert Argod dealing with the situation in southern Lebanon and the UN emergency forces stationed in the area.

Ambassador Argod said later that he handed the Foreign Ministry secretary general a note connected with a draft resolution to be presented to the UN Security Council, sponsored by some Western states, Canada, the United States, Britain and the FRG, regarding Namibia.

The French ambassador said: We discussed the general situation in the area and in Lebanon, the situation in the southern Lebanon and other subjects on Lebanese-French relations.

The secretary general of the Foreign Ministry later met with the Senegalese ambassador to Lebanon to discuss arrangements for a Senegalese contingent to join the UN forces in southern Lebanon.

SON OF FORMER PRESIDENT FRANJIYAH VISITING DAMASCUS

JN262156Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2058 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 26 April--The INA correspondent here has learned that Deputy Toni Franjiyah, son of former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah, has been in the Syrian capital since this morning. This is his second visit in 2 weeks. The correspondent has also learned that Deputy Franjiyah met secretly with Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis before leaving Beirut. It is believed that the visit is connected with the cabinet formation which will be announced soon and the session of the Chamber of Deputies which will convene tomorrow to study the decisions of the 13-member parliamentary committee.

ISRAEL REINFORCES POSITIONS IN TYRE VICINITY

JN270952Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 27 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 27 April--The Zionist forces have reinforced their presence near the city of Tyre in southern Lebanon and sent a number of tanks to take up positions on the hills of the Taybat 'Arab farm, south of the port of Tyre.

Rightist press sources have justified the Zionist moves as being a result of the clashes which occurred between the joint nationalist forces and the forces of the Zionist enemy at dawn yesterday and which lasted for approximately one and a half hours.

On the other hand, General Erskine, commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], has asked the military committee entrusted with returning evacuees to southern Lebanon to halt the operation for the next 2 days.

A UN source also stated that a Senegalese contingent will arrive in Lebanon from Damascus today to participate in UNIFIL, while a new batch of Norwegian soldiers is expected to arrive during this week. The UN source stated that Ireland will send a 500-man battalion to join UNIFIL.

INA REPORTS ISRAELI CONSTRUCTION IN SOUTH

JN261844Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1832 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 26 April--Press sources in Beirut today affirm that the Zionist occupation authorities have begun to establish the first Zionist settlement in southern Lebanon. These sources add that the settlement will be established at an old airfield abandoned by the British forces after World War II because it is equipped with underground shelters and hospitals.

The newspaper AN-NAHAR reports that the residents of Al-'Urqub area have seen the Zionist forces transporting a number of prefabricated houses to the area. Zionist sources have been cited as saying that "what is being established is merely a military concentration point."

ISRAEL ALLEGEDLY PLUNDERS RUINS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

NC261204Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1108 GMT 26 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 26 April--Persons arriving from southern Lebanon have said that the Israeli authorities have begun to excavate and plunder ruins in the Tyre area. They add that, in the course of their excavations of an archeological site in the Hannawiyah township near the tomb of Hiram, the Israeli authorities came across marble statues of kings of the Hiram era as well as a golden statue of one of Hiram's sons.

The Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR says today that an Israeli helicopter has moved to Israel some valuable ruins, a collection of copper and pottery vessels and three gray lamps.

The paper adds that Israel believes that King Hiram was a Jew and that his relics must be moved to the Jewish museum in Jerusalem.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES PLO DELEGATION HEADED BY 'ARAFAT

JN261926Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad at 1915 today received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee; members of the PLO Executive Committee Zuhayr Muhsin, Talal Naji and Habib Qahwaji; and Muhammad Ghunaym, member of the Fatah Central Council. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

AL-BA'TH SCORES ANTI-PALESTINIAN TRENDS IN LEBANON

JN260729Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Commenting under the headline "The Important Thing is Lebanon's Arabism and the Palestine Question," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Nobody believing in the common destiny of this nation, whether in Lebanon or elsewhere, supports what is being reiterated here and there about agreements and settlements which, in the long term, can only be harmful to Lebanon and the Arab nation, because all of them will be serving the objectives of the conspiracy in which Lebanon will be the first target.

We believe that it is not important who becomes the prime minister of Lebanon. What is important is that the appointed prime minister must stand for Lebanon and its Arabism and the Palestinian question and the Palestinian people.

What is being proposed in Lebanon now, after 2 years of fighting, is not only astonishing but disgusting. We never thought that there would still be people trying not only to strike at Lebanon's unity and Arabism, but also to see similar situations develop in other Arab countries. These people are no longer working on their own, as in the past, but are now part of certain Arab and foreign forces which are working in accordance with a single plan and program to cow those who have refused and are still refusing to bow. At any rate, these forces have not emerged accidentally but are the product of the incidents and accumulations in the region.

Therefore, as long as the situation in the Arab region remains a threat to us all, we believe that any proposals causing certain sensitivities in Lebanon in these particular circumstances cannot but be considered as part of the hostile plan, regardless of who makes such proposals.

Lebanon, which has sacrificed and suffered a great deal from lack of security for two consecutive years, needs, above all, complete recovery and calm. And what is being proposed in the Lebanese arena cannot be in the interest of Lebanon's recovery, the security and unity of its land and people. To be more precise, some of these proposals go beyond the boundaries of Lebanon. Those behind the proposals still believe that they can, through outside support, achieve what the incidents of the past 2 years, Israel's recurrent attacks and As-Sadat's plotting could not achieve.

We in Syria [words indistinct] and our army under President al-Asad will continue our efforts to stop the fighting and, therefore, the plot. We will remain impartial as usual. We will extend an honest hand to whoever works faithfully and sincerely to consolidate security under the leadership of President Sarkis and to restore confidence to all sides. Proceeding from our real concern for Lebanon's unity and Arabism and the Palestinian revolution, which Syria wants to see remain solid and strong.

BA'TH LEADER RECEIVES ERITREAN FRONT DELEGATION

JN251525Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1355 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 25 April--Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today at 1300 received the delegation of the Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF] under Ahmad Nasir, chairman of the Eritrean Revolutionary Council and chairman of the ELF Executive Committee.

During the meeting, Ahmad Nasir briefed Comrade al-Ahmar on developments in the situation in Eritrea and the front's continuous struggle to win the independence and freedom of the Eritrean people. He also expressed the thanks and gratitude of the Eritrean people to Syria and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, under its Secretary General and President of the republic Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, for Syria's material and moral support for the Eritrean people in their struggle to liberate their country and attain their independence.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the assistant secretary general affirmed the strong and continuous support of the party and Syria for the Eritrean revolution and for the freedom and independence of Eritrea.

OMAN LIBERATION FRONT LEADERS MEET WITH BA'THISTS

JN251514Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1338 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 25 April--A meeting was held in the building of the Ba'th Party National Command today between the Ba'th Party National Command represented by Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, National Command member and chief of the Foreign Relations Bureau in the command, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman [PFLO] represented by Comrade 'Abd al-Hafiz Jam'an, chief of the Foreign Relations Bureau in the front. The talks centered on the Arab political situation, the circumstances through which the Arab revolutionary movement is passing, the means to bolster Arab action against foreign invasion and the struggle against the imperialist and the Zionist plots and the occupation. The views were identical on all points discussed during the meeting.

It will be recalled that the PFLO delegation arrived in Damascus the day before yesterday in response to an invitation from the National Command of the Ba'th Party. Yesterday the delegation visited the liberted town of Al-Qunaytirah. The delegation will meet with a number of party officials and with officials from other organizations and will witness some of the aspects of progress in Syria.

IDF S. LEBANON WITHDRAWAL TO CONTINUE 30 APR

TA270715Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Apr 78 TA

[Text] In 3 days the IDF will begin the third stage of the evacuation of southern Lebanon. It appears that this stage will be finished by 5 May and the forces will deploy along a line 10 km from the Israeli border.

At the beginning of this stage on Sunday the IDF will evacuate the 'Abbasiyah region and, at the same time, UN forces will take positions all along the Litani River.

Our military correspondent points out that this refers to a plan that is being consolidated at the moment; it is not final and there might be minor changes. Today a first group of troops from Senegal will arrive at Tyre where they will join the UN force.

TOURIST BUS ATTACKED IN NABULUS; 2 KILLED

TA262040Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Two people were killed and five injured in Nabulus when a bomb went off in a tourist bus. All the tourists are visiting volunteers from West Germany and have been transferred to the Nabulus hospital. They have been working on a kibbutz.

Our correspondent Rafiq Halabi reports that the group had been touring Nabulus and had visited, before the incident, Dr Hatam abu-Ghazala, one of the city's prominent people. While they were touring the town, their bus was parked near the clock square, the town's central square. There, apparently, the explosive charge was planted, or rather was sneaked through the bus window.

Curfew has been declared in the city, and security forces are searching the area, detaining many suspects.

The commander of the Judaea and Samaria region, Brig Gen David Haggo'el, and the governor of Nabulus are commanding these searches personally.

TERRORIST GROUP UNCOVERED IN REFUGEE CAMP

TA262016Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Apr 78 TA

[Text] The security forces uncovered an 11-member terrorist group among the residents of the Qalandiyah refugee camp north of Jerusalem. The group is charged with throwing molotov cocktails at a military jeep on the road to Ramallah 2 weeks ago. A soldier was burned in the incident. They are also charged with throwing molotov cocktails at a bus carrying soldiers on the same road 10 days ago. Four soldiers were burned in that incident.

LEADERS THINK U.S. WILL NOT INSIST ON REFERENDUM

TA261511Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 Apr 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[Text] In talks on the eve of Dayan's departure for Washington, Prime Minister Begin and Foreign Minister Dayan reached the conclusion that the U.S. administration is prepared to give up its demand for a public referendum in the West Bank and Gaza at the end of the 5-year administrative autonomy in the territories. This was learned in Jerusalem yesterday.

The administration's demand for an Israeli commitment to hold a referendum is one of the important points of dispute between Israel and the United States. Israel wants a check of the nature of the West Bank administration at the end of 5 years by a committee made up of Jordan, Egypt, Israel and representatives of the residents. The Americans disagree with this idea.

In his talks in Washington, which start today, Dayan will try to reach an interim solution or a third solution that will be acceptable to both Israel and the United States. Dayan will try also to clarify the meaning of the U.S. agreement to a continued IDF presence in the West Bank on the condition that the IDF "withdraws to camps."

Israel does not accept the principle of withdrawal but agrees to a new deployment of the IDF forces. In contrast to the United states, Israel says that the IDF will be responsible not only for external security but also for internal security in the territories.

The government's leadership has considered lately the question of how Israel will react if As-Sadat says that in the absence of a movement or change in the Israeli position he will stop the talks. It seems that Israel will do its best to describe such a declaration by As-Sadat as a "temporary crisis" and not a final statement on the talks. The government's assessment is that an announcement by As-Sadat of a cessation of the talks or even about his resignation is possible in the foreseeable future.

MINISTER DAYAN'S PREDEPARTURE REMARKS REPORTED

TA261658Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 25 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan left Israel this morning for the United States where he is to have talks with U.S. administration leaders. Dayan said he was not taking any new Israeli proposals with him but hoped instead to hear Egyptian proposals and the American's approach toward the Middle East peace moves. Before flying out from Ben-Gurion Airport Dayan had this statement for reporters: [begin recording]

There is nothing new that I am taking with me. We left our draft proposals in Washington at the last meeting, and so we got from the American State Department their last proposal, and if the discussion over that will be resumed, and I think both parties have got the other party's proposal. [as heard] But I personally really don't think that the issue is the paper, whether it is the interpretation for 242 or the declaration of principles. What we have to discuss really, and I think that this comes first, with the top priority, is whether there is a plan, a practical plan about Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip or about Sinai over which we can reach an agreement with the other party. If there is then the wording for that will be found, and if there isn't, so just another paper with more words won't really be the answer. So, with this we are going to Washington to try to find out about the real plan, the Egyptian approach and the American approach. What should take place in Judaea, Samaria, in theGaza Strip and in Sinai, and not so much to argue about words here or there. This is one subject.

The other one I understand it is now being, will be discussed, in the American Congress--the sale of the airplane, and our position about it is known and very clear. We feel that it is our right to express our feelings about the spreading of airplanes, war planes, to Saudi Arabia and to Egypt. We think that it will endanger Israel and we object to it and we think that we have the right and the duty to explain that to whoever we can--in the Congress, and to the American administration, and here in Israel, that it will be most dangerous for Israel if such a sale will take place.

We don't think that there should be a package deal about that. We think that this is a wrong approach to it, a wrong attitude. It was never like that before. We think that the American administration has to live up to their promises to us, for the previous government, about providing us and selling us with war airplanes, and to check our needs about that, but to not go within a package deal with the neighboring Arab countries or with Saudi Arabia. If we will be punished because of our position about that, then we will have to accept the punishment, but that will not change our views or our position. [end recording]

PERES ON U.S.-ISRAEL CONTACTS; CRITICAL OF GOVERNMENT

TA261430Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 26 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Labor opposition leader Shim'on Peres feels that if the government's latest declaration on Resolution 242 is enough to satisfy the Carter administration, then the subject will not even be discussed during Dayan's talks. If it is not, then the Israeli Government will face more problems from the United States. Peres was speaking to reporter Shim'on Ayyalon at a news conference in Tel Aviv. He announced the publication of his new book: Tomorrow Is Today. Peres said the book contains his ideas about Israeli relations with the diaspora, security and ways to improve the society. Peres also told reporter Ayyalon that the present government is doing too little, too late on the political scene. [begin recording]

Let's see the latest example, the clarifications the government gave on 242. Had they been given, say a couple of months ago, it would have saved the government a great deal of trouble and problems. I do not see any sense in their postponement. I believe that the introduction that there is no room, as far as we are concerned, for a territorial compromise, is simply a mistake--completely unnecessary. I think it defeats the purposes of the government, because, basically, we are facing two different situations--one, is dealing on a bilateral level with the Egyptians where it has a geographic expression--namely the future of Sinai. Here the government gave up completely. Then there is a second problem, and that is the future of the West Bank where the expression of this agreement is a declaration not a land and I think here the government should have been more forthcoming, quicker and larger. [end recording]

Comments on Aircraft Deal

TA261905Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 26 Apr 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] The issue of the three-fold weapons deal was discussed here today by the opposition. The supply of U.S. aircraft to Israel has never been linked to the supply of aircraft to another country, MK Shim'on Peres, the chairman of the Labor Party, said today at a press conference in Tel Aviv, held to announce the publication of his book, Tomorrow Is Today.

MK Peres said that Israel should demand all it has been promised by the United States in the field of weapons.

[Peres--begin recording] I have issued warnings on this matter, saying that Israel's reaction is not clear cut. There are those who said that Israel was willing to give up everything, or reject everything, or agree with everything. In my opinion, Israel should stand firm on what it has been promised. It has been promised aircraft, it deserves to get the aircraft. They are needed in order to safeguard the balance of power in the Middle East, and we have no reason to adjust ourselves to a move which contradicts our basic agreement with the United States. [end recording]

The aircraft deal between ourselves and the United States, MK Shim'on Peres says, is the direct result of an agreement we had prior to the second agreement made in 1975 between us and the Egyptians.

[Peres--begin recording] The sale of aircraft to Israel has never been linked to the supply of aircraft to another country, and in my opinion, Israel should firmly demand what it has been promised and what it deserves. [end recording]

In reply to a question, MK Peres emphasized that the U.S. promises in this field have been given in writing.

More on Remarks

TA262122Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Apr 78 TA

[Excerpts] The chairman of the Labor Party, Shim'on Peres, said today that the Government of Israel must not forego its part in the F-16 aircraft deal. Peres said this in reaction to reports attributed to Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, according to which Israel is ready to forego the aircraft if the matter is connected to similar deals with Arab countries. Our correspondent Nissim Mish'al. [begin videotape] MK Shim'on Peres' main theme was the package deal of the sale of F-16's to Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Israel, he emphasized, must demand that the aircraft deal be carried out despite the conditions involved.

[Peres] The issue of the F-16 aircraft for Israel is part of a promise made to the State of Israel by a former U.S. president, and Israel must flatly object to three things: first, the linking of this promise for the supply of aircraft to another country. In general, the matter of a package deal is highly precarious to the State of Israel. Second, Israel must flatly deny the foregoing of a given promise, and third, it should oppose the implanting of unnecessary doubt with regard to the vital issue of maintaining the arms balance in the Middle East. Israel should say: We have been promised these aircraft, they are needed for our security, and the defense of Israel is important for the continuation of the peace negotiations, and one should not go back, cover up or alter.

Peres also referred to the government's policy. He attacked Prime Minister Menahem Begin on what the latter said in Qiryat 'Arba, that Israel should be prepared to say "no" to the countries of the world.

[Peres] Why should we create the impression in the world that As-Sadat can say yes all the time, while we tend to say no. What advantage is there in this for Israel? If there is a need to say no, when the time to say no comes, we will say no.

At the close of the press conference Peres was asked how long he thought the present government would continue in power. The opposition's reply to this was:

[Peres] There is a fairly nice settlement between the Likud and the Labor Party. We have helped them reach power, now they are helping us return to the government. I have no complaints regarding the speed with which they are fulfilling their job. [end videotape]

EHRLICH COMMENTS ON PEACE NOW MOVEMENT

TA262150Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1935 GMT 26 Apr 78 TA

[Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich interviewed by Ya'aqov Ahime'ir, Elisha' Spiegelman and Hayyim Platner on the weekly Moqed program]

[Excerpts] [Platner] Mr Ehrlich, an hour ago we saw on Mabat [daily television newscast] today's Peace Now Movement's activity. What is your opinion on this movement?

[Ehrlich] If they say peace now without quotation marks, I am in favor. Peace now with quotation marks, I object to, because peace now in quotation marks weakens us in the negotiations. I have no doubt that these good people really want peace and I firmly believe in their honest desire for peace--I very much value their desire. Who among us does not want peace? However, a hasty peace might, God forbid, bring about war. Therefore, peace now without quotation marks, without pressure, is preferred at present, so as not to weaken our stance against the outside world, so that we can really achieve a real peace, and will not invite a new war.

[Platner] Despite your appreciation of these people, I believe you called their activity an activity that smacks of putsch.

[Ehrlich] When people call themselves officers, it smells of a putsch, because the world knows what happens when officers interfere in politics. Here, officers means the entire nation, whether they are reserve privates or officers. I respect and am for demonstrations against the government by every citizen, but not as an officer. Why the title of officer? As civilians--fine, with all due respect, but not as officers. I have condemned the term officers, but as citizens of Israel--we are all citizens of Israel, and we too, demonstrated. It is their legitimate right to demonstrate and to demand the resignation of the government--they can. The government can also not heed them, the government receives the confidence of the Knesset. However, as officers--no; as civilians--yes, with all respect.

[Platner] Mr Ehrlich, publicly speaking, does this movement, Peace Now, remind you of the protest movements that arose in Israel after the Yom Kippur war--is it the same kind but against political background, not against the background of war?

[Ehrlich] There is a great resemblance. We have witnessed many instances of spontaneous organization, whether really spontaneous or "organized spontaneously." I still cannot judge what this organizing is--it surely has a political basis and background. I can only say one thing: I respect the sincere desire of people who want peace, we all want it. The problem begins when we ask, what is peace now? According to the conditions dictated to us by the president of Egypt, return to the 1967 borders, a Palestinian state, the PLO, all of this, giving up Jerusalem--it is all included. This is the question: Is this peace now, or is there a need for peace without these conditions from which the president of Egypt has not moved one millimeter, and which he presented in a very extremist way at the Knesset? This is the question.

[Ahime'ir] Is this movement bothering the government, irritating it somewhat and in any way?

[Ehrlich] I do not feel this. I regard it as quite a normal phenomenon in a free and democratic country, I also think that it is a passing wave, and I do not feel any irritation.

[Platner] It does not bother you?

[Ehrlich] God forbid, no.

[Spiegelman] Mr Ehrlich, what is your opinion regarding the continuation of the settlements in the West Bank and in the Yamit district, the continuation or the halt of the settlements? You are a member of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs, yet you rarely participate in ceremonies in the settlements.

[Ehrlich] I am generally not a man of ceremony.

[Ahime'ir] I understand that you are also not a hawk and are not in favor of settlements, Mr Ehrlich.

[Ehrlich] I am in favor of security settlements that do not stand in the way of peace. So far, I must say, out of the settlements that exist and the ones that have been suggested, the suggested ones bother me more than the real settlements.

[Ahime'ir] You mean Mr Sharon's deeds?

[Ehrlich] Not deeds. I will not argue here with any minister, and you cannot cause me to change my balanced view on this matter. I am saying that there are--imagined settlements and real settlements.

[Ahime'ir] What is the difference?

[Ehrlich] I am saying that 2 or 3 months ago there were reports on some 20 odd settlements that never existed. This perhaps caused more damage to public opinion than real settlements. A real settlement has no bearing on peace. Whoever contradicts this is wrong. I have never seen one case where a settlement has harmed peace.

[Ahime'ir] There are those who say that in the matter of 242--and let us not enter into this here--the government is not following the commitments of the previous government.

[Ehrlich] I say this is not true. This Israeli Cabinet is going to the negotiations on the basis of 242.

[Ahime'ir] I did not mean to discuss the issue of 242, I only meant to point out the principle...

[Ehrlich] Then I am announcing that here, too, we are continuing to respect the commitments of the previous government, and I can also say that when the Likud presented its basic lines, it announced that we would act in accordance with Resolution 242. The prime minister also announced this when he presented the government to the Knesset.

JERUSALEM REPORTS ON AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY EXPORTS

TA262020Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Apr 78 TA

[Text] The Israeli Aircraft Industry has signed contracts for the supply of products worth $400 million to foreign countries in the coming years. In 1978-1979, the aircraft industry will export $220-million worth of products. These data were given by the director of Bedeq [an aircraft industry plant], Gavri'el Gidor, to Commerce and Industry Minister Yig'al Horowitz, who toured the Lod plant today. Gidor also reported that the aircraft industry will invest 1.6 billion Israeli pounds in research and development this year. The aircraft industry operates [as heard] airlines in five countries, for example, the Ecuadorean national airline. It also supplies maintenance services to Boeing aircraft used by 18 world airlines. "An impressive success story"--this is how Minister Horowitz summed up his tour in the plant.

MINISTER SEES POLITICAL MOVES BEHIND PRISON RIOTS

TA270730Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Justice Minister Shemu'el Tamir said that there are clear signs that elements of a known and defined political nature have decided to take advantage of the distress of prisoners in jails and incite them against the government. In an interview Minister Tamir said that there is no doubt that the events in Shatta and Ramla Jail were organized and that there were reports on this prior to the recent incidents.

FRG TO SUPPLY IRAN NUCLEAR POWERPLANTS, SHIPS

LD242050Y Hamburg DPA in German 1434 GMT 24 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpts] Bonn/Teheran--At the conclusion of his state visit to Iran, Federal President Walter Scheel has invited Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlevi and Empress Farah to pay a reciprocal visit to the Federal Republic. According to the president's office, a date for the Persian monarch's state visit is to be set through diplomatic channels.

Secretary of state at the Federal Ministry of Economics, Detlev Rohwedder, negotiated in Teheran for supplying Iran with four more nuclear power plants, as well as six frigates for the Iranian navy. Rohwedder told journalists during the return flight in the presidential plane that the four nuclear power plants constitutes a project of about DM20 billion, which raises the total of deals recently made with Iran to DM40 billion. The negotiations included an offer by the Iranian Government to repay the DM20 billion in oil supplies.

The sale of six frigates, which, according to DPA's information, would amount to a transaction of about DM 2 billion would, according to Rohwedder, follow the sale of six submarines, as a further step toward naval economic cooperation with Iran. Following meetings with the deputy minister of war, Hasan Toufanian, and the supreme commander of the Iranian fleet which resulted in a political agreement, it is now possible to negotiate the questions of financing and delivery dates.

LIBYA: SHAH REGIME STRIKES OUT AT OPPOSITION

LD270908Y Tripoli JANA in English 0818 GMT 27 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, April 27, JANA--Following the people's uprisings which have recently spread throughout all the cities of Iran, the Iranian Government has deliberately placed bombs in the houses of political leaders opposing the shah's regime, as well as in other places in Iran.

There are reports from Teheran that the Iranian Government and the intelligence services, under the shah's direction, have formed an organization called "the Retaliation Front."

This organization has undertaken to place time bombs inside opposition leaders' houses, in a desperate attempt to destroy the opposition.

As a result of the large-scale people's uprisings which have recently spread throughout Teheran, Tabriz, Qum and many other villages and towns in Iran, the shah was forced to flee his palaces in Teheran and hide himself in the Iranian desert.

BRIEFS

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH UAE--A trade agreement was signed in Teheran this afternoon by the Imperial Iranian Government and that of the UAE. The agreement was signed within the framework of the two countries' joint ministerial commission and emphasizes the existing possibilities of the two countries' exports. The agreement is valid for 1 year and is automatically extendable for a similar period. [Excerpt] [Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 26 Apr 78 LD]

AFGHANISTAN

TEHERAN: ATTEMPTED COMMUNIST COUP CRUSHED

LD271410Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1400 GMT 27 Apr 78 LD

[Text] An attempted communist coup in Afghanistan had been crushed. Following the discovery of the planned coup, a number of illegal Afgan Communist Party officials were arrested.

DELHI RADIO REPORTS DISTURBANCES IN KABUL

BK271243Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Apr 78 BK

[Text] According to Radio Afghanistan, a number of persons have been arrested in Kabul following a demonstration. The demonstration was held during a funeral procession. The radio also said some documents were seized from the arrested persons. Some others who are wanted by the police have gone underground.

A statement issued by the Afgan Government said that it will not remain silent to any undesirable activity against the aims of the republic. Nobody will be allowed to misuse freedom and harm the country's independence.

BANGLADESH

POLITICIANS SPLIT OVER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

BK261445Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1407 GMT 26 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Dacca, April 26 (AFP)--President Ziaur Rahman's announcement last week that a presidential election would be held on June 3 has evoked a mixed reaction among the political parties in Bangladesh.

Controversy has arisen over whether Bangladesh should have a presidential form of government, as proposed by President Zia, of a parliamentary system, to which many political parties including the Awami League subscribe. It is also being questioned whether a (?presidential) poll should precede the parliamentary election scheduled for December this year.

Pro-Peking National Awami Party chief Mashiur Rahman last Sunday [22 April] announced his support for President Zia's political programme and said holding a presidential election even with only 40 days notice [words indistinct] the early restoration of democracy in Bangladesh which has been ruled under martial law for the last three years.

The new pro-government party Jagodal [Jatiyatabadi Ganatantrik Dal], of which General Zia has not yet formally become a member, has so far given no official reaction to the proposal (?for) presidential polls, but Justice Abdus Satar, who heads the two-month-old party, and some members of the president's Council of Advisers are making public speeches expressing their support for Ziaur Rahman and urging him to be a candidate in the election.

On the other hand, Jatiya League chief Mr Ataur Rahman Khan and six political leaders of different parties have protested against the holding of the presidential polls on June 3 to introduce a presidential system of government against what they said was the wish of the people.

They issued a joint statement describing the announcement on the presidential election as a "big joke on people" and said holding such elections was expensive and unnecessary particularly after last year's referendum on President Zia, held at a huge cost of public money. (?They demanded) the holding of a general election first on the basis of the (?1968) constitution and said "in accordance with the wishes of the people [words indistinct] to parliamentary system of government."

MASS INFLUX OF BURMESE MOSLEM REFUGEES REPORTED

BK270818Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 27 Apr 78

[Text] Over 20,000 Burmese Moslem nationals have so far been pushed into Bangladesh territory. They came through the Teknaf, (Jhuntunia), Ukhia and (Leder) border points. These Burmese Moslems were forced to leave their homes in Maungdaw and Buthidaung subdivisions during the last 3 days by the Burmese law enforcing agencies and [word indistinct] nationals. These Moslems, having valid nationality certificates and family registration cards, have been living in those areas for generations as citizens of Burma.

According to reports reaching Chittagong, many of these Moslems, who have taken shelter in temporary camps at Ukhia, received bullet and bayonet injuries. Some of them have been admitted into (Jhola-Hazara) Christian Hospital. Three of them died after crossing into Bangladesh territory, while many more have taken shelter in the Teknaf camp. Bangladesh Red Cross and local people have been providing food, medicine and temporary shelter to these Moslems. About 40,000 more Burmese nationals have been uprooted from their homes and are about to be pushed into Bangladesh territory. These reports say killing, looting and various other atrocities are being committed on these innocent people to force them out of their homes and their ancestoral land.

According to another report, in the last week of last month 14,000 Burmese Moslems crossed the Naf River and entered into Bangladesh territory. They were, however, persuaded to go back to Burma, but when they attempted to enter into Burmese territory they were halted by the Burmese law enforcing agencies at Taungbro and (Gundum).

On the 2d and 3d of this month about 15,000 Burmese Moslems were forced to cross into Bangladesh territory through different border points. They took shelter in the forest and temporary camps set up by the local people. The reports say these Moslems were forced to enter into Bangladesh emptyhanded as all their belongings were snatched away by the Burmese people. Some evictees said they were forced to leave their ancestral homes well inside Burma and made to flee at gunpoint.

Narrating their plight of torture, rape, arson, loot and eviction, these evictees, with tears in their eyes and tragedies written on their faces, said it was a concerted operation by the Burmese authorities.

The Bangladesh Government sent a special envoy to Burma early this month to take up the issue of eviction of Burmese nationals with the Burmese Government. He was understood to have impressed upon the Burmese authorities the gravity of the situation and the need for creating conditions so that no Burmese nationals are compelled to leave their country and seek shelter in Bangladesh. Later, a Burmese delegation headed by the foreign minister visited Bangladesh. During their visit, the Government of Bangladesh requested the Burmese Government to stop the exodus and also proposed a joint mechanism to prevent such developments taking place along the border in future.

After the return of the Burmese foreign minister, the rate of exodus increased despite the fact that talks between the foreign ministers of the two countries were understood to have been conducted in a spirit of goodneighborliness. On Sunday last [23 April], over 100 evicted Moslems were also killed and scores of others injured when Burmese armed personnel fired upon them near the Bangladesh border. Bullets also fell inside Bangladesh territory. Since then intermittent firing has been taking place inside Burma resulting in much larger evictions.

The reports say that thousands of Burmese Moslems are living a deplorable life in shabby camps or in the open across the border waiting to be forced out of Burmese territory.

INDIA

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT BACKS NUCLEAR FUEL SALE

BK270916Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The U.S. State Department has asked President Carter to overrule the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and allow the sale of 7.6 tons of enriched uranium to India. An official spokesman of the department said in Washington that President Carter's decision is expected within a week.

After Mr Carter's decision, the Congress would have 60 days to veto the sale by a resolution of the House and the Senate.

VAJPAYEE, MINIC DISCUSS NONALINED ISSUES IN NEW YORK

BK271007Y Delhi ISI in English 0848 GMT 27 Apr 78 BK

[Text] External Affairs Minister A.B. Vajpayee and the Yugoslav Foreign Minister Milos Minic exchanged views on issues to be discussed by the Bureau of Nonalined Countries at Kabul from May 8 to 10, reports PTI from the United Nations in New York. Minic is visiting New Delhi on May 4 and 5 on his way to Kabul.

Vajpayee also met a number of visiting African leaders, including Sam Nujoma, leader of the South-West Africa People's Organisation, on the issue of independence of Namibia now before the General Assembly.

IMPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR MONITORING INCIDENT REVIEWED

BK261641Y Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 18 Apr 78 p 4 BK

[Editorial: "Cold War Over Frozen Device"]

[Excerpts] The latest statement of the prime minister must have removed the misgivings and anxieties of those persons who recently started all-out propaganda, calling the holy Himalayas a wicked group of mountains. Mr Desai informed the Lok Sabha that a nuclear monitoring device was, in fact, placed on Nanda Devi and that it might now be frozen and buried under the snow.

However, that cold incident has heated up the atmosphere of this country. This artificial heat was produced by those persons who get immense pleasure from provoking the governments of India and the United States under any pretext. The same pleasure is also overwhelmingly manifested by them when they beg for wheat or other foodgrains, especially during lean production years. At that time no shame, fear or hatred exists in their minds or in that of the Soviet Union, which is considered to be a purebred socialist state, and unrestrainedly both of them hold out their beggar's bowl or hat to the West.

We do not support the planting of any U.S. device (for monitoring a particular foreign country) in the Himalayas of this country, but we want to recall that the news of the incident first came to light through U.S. journalism. (The chief minister of West Bengal [words indistinct] indisputable truth). Later on, whatever commentaries or articles the Soviet military newspaper might write as a part of the Soviet propaganda machinery on the subject adding various adjectives, it should be remembered that only the United States washes its dirty linen before everyone. No other system besides a strong democracy has the courage and guts to do such a thing.

Mr Desai said that the CIA cannot be held solely responsible for the incident. Let that notorious organization go to hell; but could the Janata government be accused because of it? It seems instead that the previous regime might have taken the initiative in planting the U.S. monitoring device like the Siva Linga [phallus--symbolic representation of god Siva] on the Himalayas. That regime had the closest love and friendship with the Soviet Union. In that case, did the regime display love outwardly to the Soviet Union and secretly enter into a deal with the United States? Everything is possible in diplomacy. However, any honest, decent and impartial intelligent person will agree that the Desai government was absolutely uninvolved in the incident.

If the screaming still continues despite the prime minister's statement, do you not think that the device now buried under the heap of snow in the Himalayas will crack Sino-Indian relations, which have started to grow afresh, more than it will hurt Indo-U.S. relations? Who knows whether such a desire was there in the raising of this hullabaloo over a device lying in a frozen deathbed. Like the wolf in the fairy tales, the politicians are never tired of playing tricks. They just wait for an excuse. Thus, we ask once again: Do the persons who are screaming loudly today want to kill two birds--Indo-U.S. and Sino-Indian relations--with one stone?

BARNALA EXPECTS INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION THIS YEAR

BK2512S4Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The total food production in the country this year is likely to be 125 million tons. This will be about 14 million tons more than last year's production, representing an increase of 10 to 12 percent. This was stated in the Lok Sabha today by the agriculture minister, Mr S.S. Barnala. He was replying to the debate on the demands for grants of his ministry which were later passed by the house.

The minister said that despite considerable damage by natural calamities in some parts of the country, there has been a marked increase in the production of all foodgrains and pulses. All the demands of the states have been met, which has resulted in stabilizing the prices of wheat, rice and other cereals.

RAILWAY EQUIPMENT TO BE SUPPLIED TO SRV

BK261608Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Apr 78 BK

[Text] India is to supply railway equipment worth 350 million rupees to Vietnam. An agreement to this effect was signed in New Delhi today between the Projects and Equipment Corporation [PEC] of India, a public sector undertaking, and the Vietnam National Machinery Import-Export Corporation. Under the agreement, the PEC will supply 980 wagons, 50 passenger coaches, about 1,000 bodies for coaches and wagons, and spare parts.

SHIPPING AGREEMENTS WITH POLAND, USSR SETTLED

BK2515477 Delhi ISI in English 1458 GMT 25 Apr 78 BK

[Excerpt] India has successfully negotiated with Poland an agreement to share all national cargo on a 50-50 basis. A breakthrough has also been made in negotiations with the Soviet Union in regard to carriage of their third country trade by Indian bottoms from and to the Soviet ports. It has been recognised by the Soviet Union that there is scope for Indian bottoms carrying an increasing share of their third country trade.

These steps have been taken by the Ministry of Shipping and Transport with a view to seeing Indian shipping through the crisis created by a depressed freight market the world over. The ministry has already impressed upon the concerned government department the importance of making cargo available to Indian bottoms. They have also been urged to conclude contracts as far as possible on the fob [free on board] sale basis and the C and F [cost and freight] purchase basis. Considering that increased availability of cargo by itself was not going to see Indian shipping through the crisis, as freight rates were far below the operational costs, the ministry set up a study group to suggest other ways of helping Indian shipping companies. Its report has since been received and the government is expected to be able to devise a package of assistance for shipping companies which will ensure preservation of the Indian fleet.

This was revealed by union Minister for Shipping and Transport Chand Ram while addressing the members of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for his ministry in New Delhi on April 24.

PAKISTAN

PLANS FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT BOGGED DOWN

BK2312347 Hong Kong AFP in English 1227 GMT 23 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, April 23 (AFP)--A proposal by Pakistani military ruler General Ziaul Haq to form a national government has bogged down, at least for the time being, because of differences over it among politicians, informed sources said today.

Gen Zia has met with politicians once, while his aides have had two rounds of discussions marked by apparent lack of progress. Although no date was set for the resumption of the dialogue after the latest session last Friday, the sources said the idea had not been abandoned altogether. Newspapers, quoting political leaders, reported that the negotiations would resume in the near future.

The National Democratic Party, a major component of the eight-party Pakistan National Alliance, and the Tehrik-i-Istaqlal Party, led by retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan, have openly opposed the national government proposal. Other parties willing to join the proposed setup have reportedly set certain conditions.

BRIEFS

MEDICAL TEAM TO MALDIVES--The government has dispatched a team of medical personnel to the Maldives at the request of that country to help control an outbreak of a diarrhea epidemic. The 5-member team left for the Maldives on the 20th. About 200 persons died last month due to this disease. [Text] [Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 25 Apr 78 BK]

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